

AROUND THE WORLD

	C	F	W	H	C	F
Amsterdam	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Buenos Aires	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Chengdu	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Frankfurt	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Geneva	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Helsinki	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Hong Kong	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
London	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Los Angeles	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Madrid	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
Moscow	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear
New York	10	50	18	64	cloudy	clear

Winning numbers

In last night's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 873554 won NIS1 million while ticket number 805199 was good for the Honda automobile. Those holding tickets 741972, 289719, 716364, 082890, 416588, 244888, 203394, 874192, 110066, 391122, 270414, 171269, 667751, 546009, 166520, 484592, 881619, 417128, 557161, 250073, 502676, 433333, 226329, 138452, 717040, and 331877 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 32684, 26109, 23383, 34121, 43227, 78531, 29695, 61814, 98160, 92384, 10496, 04892, 97037, 38848, 87201, 48564, 01234, 56907, and 64413 all are worth NIS 1,000, those ending in 405, 795, 350 and 510 NIS 100, in 08, 12, 86 and 40 NIS 10, in 47, 09, 37, 96, 13, 11, and 73 NIS 10 and in 5, NIS 7.

CORRECTION

Shmuel Ben-Ya'acov has not been released from administrative detention as reported in yesterday's paper.

ARRIVALS

World WIZO President Raya Jaglom, after visits to London, where she spoke at British WIZO's 75th anniversary dinner, and Geneva, where she spoke at a benefit function for Swiss WIZO's schools in Israel.

For residents of the north, it's deja vu all over again

DAVID RUDGE

THE blast of exploding Katyushas rocked parts of the Western Galilee on three separate occasions yesterday afternoon, giving residents an unwelcome reminder of the continued existence of the terrorist threat from Lebanon, despite the understandings reached at the end of Operation Accountability last summer.

"I was returning home from work a short while before Operation Accountability when several rockets exploded nearby. It frightened me, and this latest incident has reawakened those unpleasant memories," said Mazel Levy, a resident of the region.

In one community in the area, a 75-year-old bed-ridden man had a lucky escape when a rocket exploded within 20 meters of his

home. "It's not the first time Katyushas have landed round here, and I was expecting something after I heard on the radio about the air raid" against Hizbullah, he said.

The first salvo landed in the region around 1 p.m., while many children were still in school or at kindergarten. One youngster, Alon Verczberger, said that after the first explosion, all the children in his kindergarten went into the bomb shelter.

She said she had been frightened but there was no panic among the youngsters, who drew pictures until it was time for them to go home.

Hemda said she had been walking to work when she heard the sound of three

explosions nearby. "The people around here have gotten used to this and nobody is really scared," said Hemda, who works at a guest house in the area.

"It did not seem to affect the visitors here, and so far we haven't had any cancellations. I hope it won't come to that," she said.

Despite the early closure of some business places in parts of western Galilee, it appeared to be business as usual in Nahariya. "Everything is normal. We've gotten used to these circumstances," said Shosh, a resident of the town, who is married with three children.

"I hope things will continue as normal and that we will be able to sleep in our own rooms, but if we are instructed to stay in the shelters we'll certainly comply," she added.

SHELTERS

(Continued from Page 1)

"They felt the IDF's arm yesterday and in the past few weeks, and I warn them to stop these acts or we will be forced to take steps in response that will be seven times harder [than theirs]," he said.

Mordechai said there was no doubt that the IAF strike had dealt Hizbullah a serious and painful blow.

It came hard on the heels of last month's kidnapping of Believers Resistance leader Mustafa Dirani from his home in northern Lebanon in a daring commando raid. As in that case, the operation showed a high level of planning based on accurate intelligence.

Reports from Lebanon said four Cobra attack helicopters fired missiles and machine guns at a tent camp used as an Hizbullah training base in Ein Dardara, near Hizbullah's stronghold in Baalbek in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

According to the reports, warplanes hit the target again about 15 minutes later, sending the casualty toll soaring. Some reports said as many as 400 Hizbullah activists, many of them in their teens, were in the base at the time to undergo terrorist training. Another report, however, said they had gathered there in preparation for a parade to mark the anniversary of the death of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

The base itself, in the northern part of the Bekaa Valley, is surrounded by Syrian troops and ground-to-air missile batteries and

is only a few kilometers from the Syrian border.

There were reports that Lebanese army and Syrian troops fired anti-aircraft guns at the IAF warplanes and helicopters, although there was no independent confirmation of this.

According to the Lebanese reports, the aircraft came in from the north, although it was not clear how they managed to evade Syrian radar in the area.

Hizbullah closed off the area, but later broadcast scenes of the rescue operations and the grisly outcome of the air strike on its own television station. A statement issued by the organization denounced the raid as a barbarous and criminal act which would not stop the resistance.

"Israel is a terrorist state - a germ that has to be eradicated," the statement said.

"We will not let Israel live among us," declared Hizbullah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Fadallah, while secretary-general Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said the "blood of the martyrs will not be spilled in vain."

Lebanese officials, led by President Elias Harawi and Foreign Minister Fares Bouez condemned the attack as "an act of naked aggression against Lebanese sovereignty."

The Lebanese government later sent a message to the UN calling for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the raid and Dirani's kidnapping.

SYRIA

(Continued from Page 1)

training ground for Hizbullah, and not a civilian area.

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak told reporters that the timing of the attack was related to "recent" intelligence information about the Hizbullah training site. Barak's remarks set off speculation that Israel obtained information about the location from Mustafa Dirani, the Believers Resistance leader it kidnapped last month.

Barak said that the attack "delivered a severe and mortal blow to Hizbullah, according to the simple principle of 'he who comes to kill you, kill him first.'"

The chief of staff also stressed that the firing of Katyusha rockets at Israeli territory is a blatant violation of last summer's understandings. "We have no interest in escalating the situation in Lebanon," Barak said. "The upcoming hours will determine how things develop. We have a variety of means to address any contingency."

The decision to stage yesterday's attack was taken at an inner cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

At the meeting, which lasted just over an hour, Rabin and the top echelon of the IDF put forward the idea of an air strike.

Some analysts said last night that Syria may interpret the Israeli air strike as a signal that Rabin has given up on the peace process, since it comes shortly after the prime minister told MKs this week that the peace process is at an impasse.

HIZBULLAH

(Continued from Page 1)

corroborated existing information on Ein Dardara. Ein Dardara is not a new base, and it conceivably could have been attacked before.

It is this context that warrants an assessment of a statement made earlier in the week by Subhi Touf, the former Secretary-General of Hizbullah, according to which Arad is no longer alive, and in any case, Hizbullah is not holding him.

The air force has been apparently planning the strike for several months, but in order to operate in the Syrian-controlled Baalbek area, Israel needed several variables to converge and make the timing right.

Those factors, aside from the intelligence, were a weakened and confused Hizbullah, trying to recuperate from Dirani's abduction, and a Syria that is losing the grip it once had on the timetable of the peace talks. In the final analysis, the attack's goal - and accomplishment - was to hit Hizbullah where it hurts the most.

CLALIT

(Continued from Page 1)

Kupat Holim is a very strange organization. It is responsible for giving services, it is responsible for spending money, but it has no responsibility for, and no control over, its income," he said.

Therefore, he said, it is better to give Haim Ramon a chance to resuscitate the fund, and, if he fails, to appoint a receiver with his consent, than to appoint a receiver now in the face of Ramon's vehement opposition.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Five detained after bringing pig to demo

Five people who brought a pig to a demonstration outside Shas leader Aryeh Deri's Jerusalem apartment were detained for questioning last night.

The pig was brought in a cage, upon which was a sign reading: "A strictly kosher pig, supervised by Rabbi Aryeh Deri."

The pig was part of an anti-Shas demonstration that drew dozens of people. It was taken Wednesday night to a similar demonstration in front of Shas MK Raphael Pinhasi's home in Bnei Brak.

In a related development, a Palestinian who has cooperated with the General Security Services last night came to an anti-government vigil being held near the Prime Minister's Office. The Tulkarm resident came to the vigil with his four children, and said he is protesting the government's failure to protect Palestinians who helped the GSS.

Porat: Arafat deserves a bullet in the head

National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat said yesterday he would welcome the assassination of PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

"A man who is a terrorist and whose hands are covered in blood, who continues to talk of a jihad for Jerusalem, is not my negotiating partner," Porat said in an interview with Army Radio. "I am ready to meet him only through the sight of a weapon."

"I am not talking of any kind of operational plan. But if you are asking what the correct thing is, or what this man called Yasser Arafat deserves, it is a bullet in the head," he said.

Shohat meets with social workers

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat met last night with representatives of the striking social workers in an attempt to end the strike today. Participants in the discussions expressed cautious optimism that a wage agreement might be signed before the night was over.

Israel backs nuclear test ban treaty

Israel said yesterday that it backed a global nuclear test ban treaty and called on its Arab neighbors to support it as a step towards regional stability.

"Israel supports a global and universally applicable CTBT," Yitzhak Lior, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, said in a speech before the 39-nation Disarmament Conference.

"Israel expects all states of the Middle East to join the prospective CTBT [comprehensive test ban treaty] as an important step towards regional stability and security," he added.

Experts hope to agree on a draft treaty text by mid-1995.

Sewage again endangering nature reserve

Sewage from Safed is again pouring into the the Nahal Amud Nature Reserve because of a fault in the city's sewage treatment plant, according to the Nature Reserves Authority. The sewage flows from there into Lake Kinneret. NRA spokeswoman Dina Weinstein said.

The problem of Safed's sewage has reoccurred regularly over the last few months. The Water Commissioner's office has sent a warning to the municipality demanding immediate treatment of the problem which threatens water supplies.

The NRA has also complained that the popular nature reserve is endangered by the sewage. were not available for comment.

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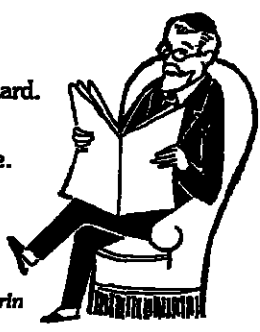
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A Ramallah resident throws a stone at Israeli soldiers in the center of town yesterday. Palestinians hurled stones and bottles at soldiers, who responded with rubber bullets and tear gas. (Reuters)

Liba'i visit prompts protests in Ramallah

TROOPS wounded two Palestinians in Ramallah yesterday during the second day of protests there, as Justice Minister David Liba'i was visiting the town, the IDF said.

Liba'i spoke about law and order with Appeals Court President Khalil Silwani, as Palestinians threw stones and burned tires nearby and Border Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

It was the second day of protests following the killing in A-Ram Tuesday of two Izzat al-Kassab men, one of whom is believed responsible for the murder of GSS agent Noam Cohen. Two Israelis were slightly hurt by stones thrown at a bus passing A-Ram

JON IMMANUEL

yesterday, the IDF said.

Liba'i told reporters he was troubled by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's call to the Palestinian courts to observe only laws existing before the Six-Day War.

"I hope he will take care not to get involved in affairs in which he has no authority and does not call for Palestinian residents or law enforcement agents to act on matters in which he has no authority," he said.

According to the Cairo agreement, which Liba'i had come to discuss at Silwani's

invitation, only the 24-member Palestinian authority has the legislative power to undo Israeli laws and it has not convened yet. Once it does, it needs Israeli permission to annul Israeli military regulations.

Liba'i said that the Palestinian police were not obligated under the agreement to extradite Palestinians wanted for killing Israelis, because, he explained, "If they signed that, they would hand over every terrorist to Israel. Do you think they could keep to the agreement? We preferred that there be an agreement that they could keep if they have the will."

Herb Keiron contributed to this report.

Rothschild: Palestinians must improve conditions in autonomy

IF the Palestinians do not take responsibility soon for Gaza and Jericho and improve the living conditions there, the whole peace agreement is worthless, Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, said yesterday.

At a Treasury forum for the diplomatic corps on the economic agreement with the Palestinians, Rothschild and other government officials criticized a picture of utter disarray created by the administrative vacuum left in Jericho and Gaza, since the civil administration moved out early last month.

Although Israel left behind a staff of 7,000 Palestinians to run the area's economic day-to-day activities, the Palestinian leadership has failed to appoint a top echelon to manage the areas' affairs, said Rothschild.

Moreover, the leadership did not realize the extent of the areas' dependence on Israel for basic services, and canceled contracts for electricity, water, telephone, medical services and maintenance of equipment.

Rothschild noted that Israel left

all the infrastructure and equipment that was there, as well as a three-month supply of food and medicines, and salaries for one month. Some of the items, however, have already been stolen.

Rothschild also said the Palestinians are not prepared to collect taxes, and that their best chance to develop this capability quickly would be to hire those who worked as tax collectors until 1987, when the intifada began.

Budget director David Brodet said that the Palestinian's financial

situation is bad, and they will need an annual budget of \$240 million. Once they begin collecting taxes, they are expected to only be able to raise half of the amount they need. He said the only way to bridge the gap would be for the donor countries to agree to fund the Palestinians' current expenses.

Treasury International Division director Ehud Kaufman called on the donor countries to shoulder part of the financing for the Palestinians' current expenses.

"We are big, but not that big to shoulder those expenses alone," he said.

Police uncover gang dealing in fraudulently purchased goods

RAINE MARCUS

NETANYA police said they have uncovered a gang that fraudulently purchased around a million shekels worth of electronic items, sea bikes and gambling machines.

The Sharon District Fraud Squad started an undercover investigation a few months ago which led to the arrest of three suspects, who allegedly operated a "sting" against several companies.

Last December, the suspects formed the "Haim Oren Trading Co., Ltd.," which ostensibly traded in all kinds of goods, initially paying cash for them until they received credit.

The company bought electronic equipment, boats, telephone equipment, computers and sea bikes valued at around NIS 1 million. After their first check was honored, the company paid for the goods using post-dated checks.

The gang then sold the goods for cash and deposited a certain amount to cover the first few checks paid to suppliers. The rest of the checks bounced.

Haim Dolev, the principal suspect, tried to flee the country last week, but was stopped when he tried to board a plane at Ben-Gurion Airport, because an injunction barring him from leaving had been issued.

He was arrested two days later on a boat leaving Haifa port, when he tried to flee the country using a forged passport. He was remanded for 10 days by the Netanya Magistrate's Court.

On Wednesday, detectives raided other suspects' homes and a warehouse in Netanya, seizing a large quantity of goods. Netanya residents Oren Fuchs, 30, and Shimon Falah, 26, were remanded yesterday for 10 days.

Aloni won't meet Bezek

Communications Minister Shlomo Aloni said she will refuse to meet with Bezek representatives as long as they continue demonstrating outside her home in Kfar Shmaryahu.

Aloni said the workers, who are protesting against her having signed a new general license that limits Bezek's monopoly, have been outside her door for three days.

No gov't plans to protest presence of extreme right-wingers in new Italian coalition

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL has refrained from any symbolic opposition to the new Italian coalition government, which includes five members of an extreme rightist party that supports a more favorable reassessment of the Mussolini era.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin denied an Italian news report published yesterday that Israel has decided to temporarily cool relations with Rome.

Jerusalem's lack of action contrasts with Norway, which recently announced that it would essentially boycott those five Italian ministers, who are members of the National Alliance party.

When Oslo made its move, some Foreign Ministry officials

said privately that Israel would wait to follow the European Union's lead. However, with no movement on the issue coming from Europe, Jerusalem has decided to continue business as usual, one Israeli official admitted.

One American Jewish leader expressed disappointment. "As a historic victim of fascism, I was hoping that Israel would do more in dealing with the new Italian government," he said.

However, some sources cite Israel's envoy in Rome, Avi Pazner, as lobbying Jerusalem not to do anything to anger the new Italian government. He has informed Je-

usalem of statements by leading Italian officials calling for a reevaluation of Rome's Middle East policy, favoring closer links to Israel.

The issue of how to deal with the new Italian government may need to be faced as soon as next month. An official Israeli delegation is scheduled to sign a protocol for cultural cooperation in Rome, but the Italian signatory is expected to be Culture Minister Domenico Fischella, a member of the National Alliance.

A formal review of Israel's policy is expected to be held next week, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Officials say, however, they seriously doubt any dramatic symbolic act or new policy towards Italy is in the offing.

Peace Now wants to use US money to move settlers

HERB KEIRON

PEACE Now representatives in the US are feeling out Congressional leaders about the possibility of using some of the \$10 billion in US loan guarantees to compensate settlers who want to move inside the Green Line.

Linda Heller Kamm, co-chairman of Americans for Peace Now, said yesterday that US Rep. Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House foreign affairs committee, asked the State Department for a ruling on the matter at a recent Congressional hearing, and is awaiting a response.

"My feeling is that if there is a formal request about this matter from the Israeli government, it would be favorably received," Kamm said. She added, however, that without a request from Jerusalem, Congress is unlikely to act.

Kamm was one of about 30 members of a visiting AFPN delegation that met yesterday with six people from different settlements who said they want compensation to leave their homes.

Peace Now head Tzvi Reshef told the group that 50 percent of the residents of the settlements would be willing to move within

the Green Line if offered compensation. He said resettling the settlers, who number about 140,000, would cost about \$2 billion.

According to Peace Now spokeswoman Vered Livne, various MKs have compiled a list of some 2,000 families who have expressed a willingness to leave their settlements.

"Many more are afraid to come forward now because they fear the reaction of their neighbors, and others want to hold out now, in hopes of getting more compensation later," she said.

Eti Ezov, from Kiryat Arba, told the group that life in her settlement has become unbearable since the massacre at the Machpela Cave in Hebron.

"It used to be that if our bus was hit by stones we would be concerned. Now if we are hit by a stone, we thank God it was only a stone. I have two children, age six and 10 months, and am afraid for their lives."

Ezov said that after a BBC film crew came to interview them in Kiryat Arba on Wednesday, she and her husband were verbally at-

tacked by a number of their neighbors. Ezov claimed she was fired from her job in Kiryat Arba a month after her husband appeared on Israel Television and said he wanted to leave the settlement.

Residents from Dugit, Ma'ale Ephraim and Ginnat Shimon all told similar stories of their desire to move, but of their inability to do so because the values of their homes have decreased substantially, making it impossible for them to buy anything inside the Green Line.

Aharon Domb, spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said Peace Now's claims that thousands want to leave the settlements was "baloney." He said the annual growth in the settlements is running at 8 percent, and that the percentage of those wanting to leave is "extremely small."

"The cooperation between the terrorists and Peace Now continues," Domb said. "Terrorists kill Jews, and Peace Now helps them by suggesting the removal of settlers. We have overcome much worse than Peace Now, we will overcome this as well."

Kiryat Arba man seriously hurt by rock thrown at his car

HERB KEIRON

A KIRYAT Arba resident was hit in the head late yesterday afternoon by a rock hurled at his car at the Zechuchit junction near his settlement. He was rushed to Hadassah University Hospital in Ein Kerem, where he was listed in serious condition.

The man, a new immigrant from the former Soviet Union, has been living in Kiryat Arba for about four months. The car he was driving was new, and he had not yet installed any window protection to deflect rocks. The rock smashed through the window and hit him in the head.

Yehoshua Shani, head of the Kiryat Arba Action Committee, said that in the last few days there has been a substantial increase in the number of rock-throwing incidents on the Kiryat Arba-Jerusalem road near the settlement, both at the Zechuchit junction and in Halhoul.

After the incident, which took place at about 5:30, a number of Jews stoned Arab cars driving near Kiryat Arba.

Customs official remanded

RAINE MARCUS

YEHUDA Kanias, the senior customs and VAT official suspected of accepting bribes in return for reducing the VAT charges for various factories and businessmen, was remanded for a week in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Kanias was arrested by the National Fraud Squad on Tuesday after a year-long undercover investigation.

Businessman Jackie Ronen, a central prosecution witness who allegedly gave Kanias luxury items and cash in return for favors, has fled the country to escape his own trial on charges of fraud and forgery.

But in requesting Kanias's remand, police said that they

have several other witnesses, and their written statements implicate the suspect.

A police representative said his "hand was trembling" when he signed the detention request, since he has worked together with Kanias for many years.

Kanias was the manager of the Tel Aviv District Purchase Tax Division, which deals with large factories and industry.

In arguing for his release on bail, lawyer Dan Sheinman said that courts have adopted a more liberal approach to custody, realizing that alternative methods to incarcerating a man with no criminal record were available.

Lawyer wants data on Dimona reactor cancer victims

LIAT COLLINS

A LAWYER representing workers at the Negev Nuclear Research Center has asked Environment Minister Yossi Sarid to show him a copy of the report on employees' cancer rates he quoted in the Knesset on Wednesday.

According to Sarid, the report shows the number of cancer victims at the NNRC in Dimona at 20 percent less than the national average.

"For three years, I have been demanding to see reports of this type and I have always been told none was available," said Jerusalem lawyer Richard Laster.

Laster, who represents the workers' union, is currently suing the Atomic Energy Commission on behalf of some 20 clients for death or ill-health due to work conditions. "None of my clients is aware of the study," he added.

Sarid said the NNRC commissioned an independent survey in light of allegations that a disproportionate number of employees had developed cancer because of the nature of the facility.

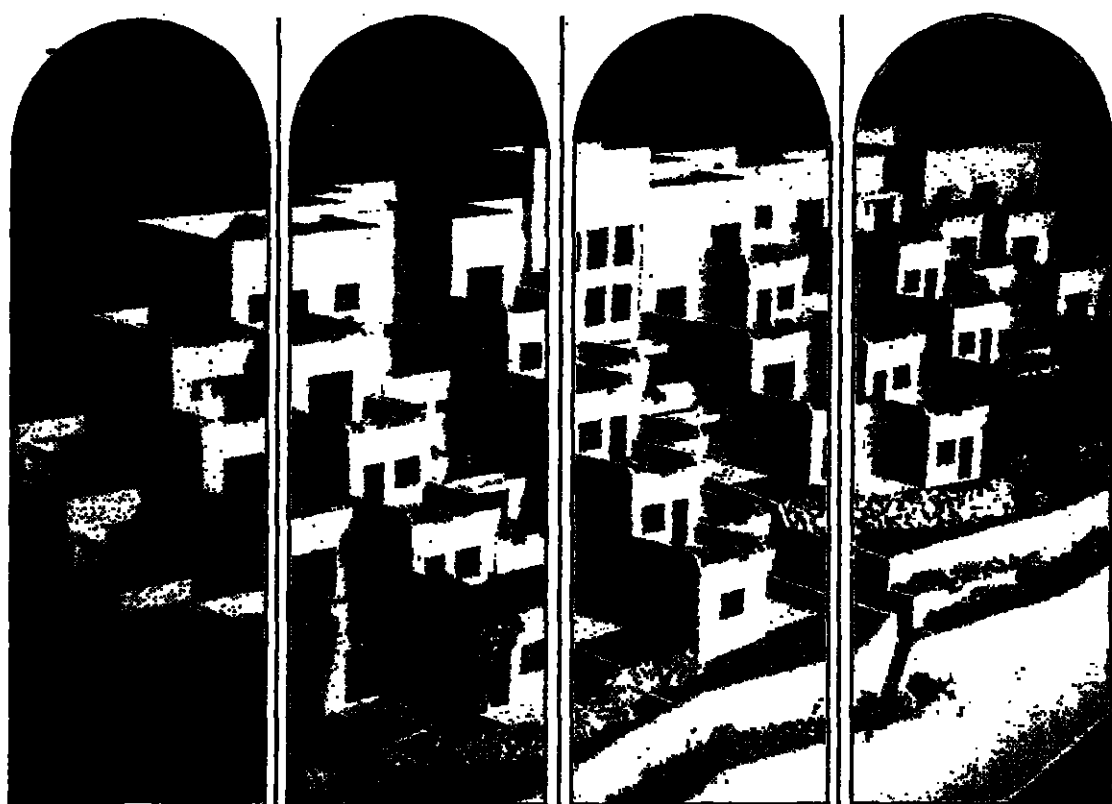
The survey showed no significant difference in the frequency or type of cancer developed by research center employees and the general population, and no higher frequency among workers employed in departments working more closely with radiation than in the administrative staff.

The report was never made available to the press.

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The raid's message

It would be a mistake to look for complex, hidden reasons for yesterday's air force attack on a Hizbullah training base in the Bekaa valley. The government's explanation should be taken at face value. When the security services received information about Iranian "Revolutionary Guards" and their trainees camping in the eastern part of the Bekaa valley, helicopter gunships were sent to destroy the camp.

The raid was the 17th attack on terror bases in Lebanon this year, a routine operation made exceptional only by the large number of casualties. It was in line with the government's policy on terrorism - to press the war against terror groups "as if there is no peace process" - for which it has the support of the vast majority of Israelis.

If there is anything truly outstanding about the attack, it is the intelligence achievement it represents. The training camp is 100km. from Israel's northern border and 5km. from the Syrian border, yet the helicopter gunships targeted it with pinpoint accuracy in the middle of the night.

It was the third spectacular accomplishment of the intelligence services in less than two weeks. On May 21, in a similar penetration into Lebanon, special army units apprehended Hizbullah officer Mustafa Dirani in a faultless operation. (Israel's intelligence information was obviously so complete that the Hizbullah issued a leaflet accusing the Lebanese army and police of collaboration with the Israeli enemy.) This was followed on Tuesday of this week with the stalking and killing of

one of the country's most wanted Hamas gunmen after a long manhunt.

The message of such actions is abundantly clear. Participants in terrorist activities against Israel have been reminded that no place is safe from Israeli punishment. Those who have been nurturing the notion that the Israeli security forces have grown soft have been prompted to thoroughly reassess their views. And Syria has been warned that sponsoring and encouraging the Hizbullah may prove unprofitable.

Indeed, Hizbullah activities are a daily reminder that the conventional bit of wisdom which portrays Syrian dictator Hafez Assad as a man of his word is nothing but a myth. As Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur reminded radio listeners yesterday, not a day passes without shelling, ambushing, sniping or raiding by Hizbullah guerrillas against Israeli and South Lebanon Army targets.

To suggest that these activities, wholly controlled by Syria, are compatible with the peace process is to mock the meaning and purpose of the talks. Even the narrow agreement to stop shelling Israeli towns, reached with Syria after Operation Accountability last July, was violated yesterday when the Hizbullah fired Katyusha rockets at western Galilee.

What makes a peace agreement with Syria seem remote is the not-unreasonable Israeli suspicion that Syria is not at all interested in peace, but in retrieving territories it lost in wars of aggression. The continued activation of the Hizbullah by Damascus is hardly designed to allay this suspicion.

The bogus scare

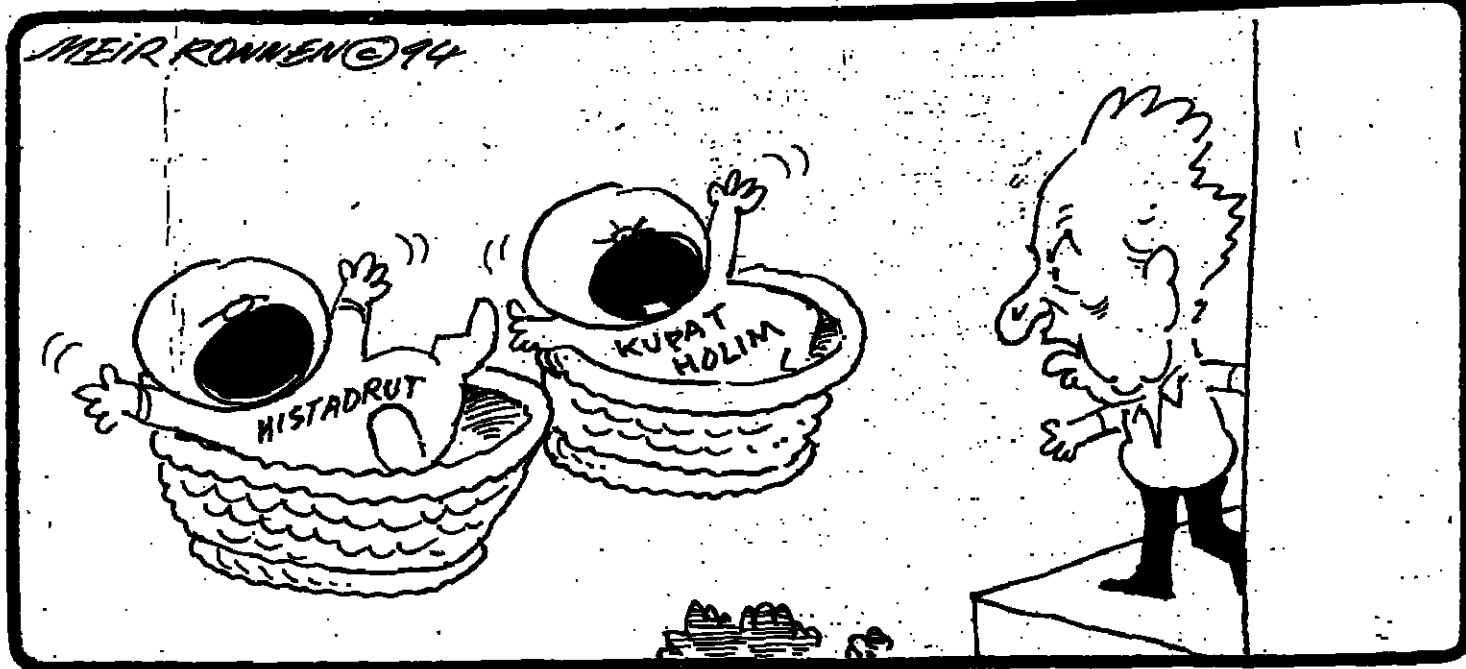
MANY were undoubtedly startled by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid's announcement on Wednesday that the number of cancer victims among nuclear reactor workers is smaller than in the general population. This is not news to anyone familiar with energy-production statistics. Nuclear power is a safer source of energy than virtually any other, and far safer than oil and coal. As Professor Bernard L. Cohen of the University of Pittsburgh once put it, the risk to life from nuclear power is equal to that of an overweight person eating one extra slice of buttered bread every 10 years.

Unfortunately, the media have found in nuclear energy a perfect vehicle for scare-mongering. Not long ago, a program produced by Israel Television used despicable demagogic techniques to tout the notion working at the Negev Nuclear Research Center caused cancer. Like similar tendentious programs in the US and Europe, it used the accident at Chernobyl - caused by the criminal negligence of a criminal regime - to imply all reactors are equally dangerous. The obvi-

ous purpose of the program was not only to scare viewers but to undermine efforts to build energy-producing nuclear reactors here.

A similar campaign, regrettably all too successful, was launched against the proposed Voice of America station in the Negev. Horror stories about adverse effects on the health of humans and birds, just as baseless as the tales of cancer-producing nuclear reactors, were spread by the Society for the Preservation of Nature. To Israel's irretrievable loss, they managed to persuade the government to withdraw from a signed agreement to build the station.

Sarid deserves praise for releasing the findings with fanfare. People of his political persuasion are often too sympathetic to the mindless environmentalism represented by "Green" parties to relish such statistics. Now it can only be hoped that the findings will discredit all those who fight technological progress to the detriment of Israel's future. Whether the peace millennium is around the corner or not, Israel cannot afford to be run by Luddites.



Health, wealth... and wisdom

YOSEF GOELL

LESS than four weeks since Histadrut control was wrested from the hands of the Labor Party, the impact of this development would be difficult to exaggerate.

This week, attention naturally focused on the crisis in the Histadrut's Kupat Holim health services. Premature babies in Afula Hospital and patients at Eilat's Josephine Hospital were reported to be the first victims of a critical depletion of drugs and medical supplies in Kupat Holim hospitals.

Even in a best-case scenario, the crisis is certain to spread to additional areas before it is finally brought under control by a new leadership in the Histadrut and the Health Ministry. But one thing is essential: the current crisis in Kupat Holim and the impending crises in the Histadrut must be kept separate from the needs of the political parties.

Officially, the enormity and urgency of Kupat Holim's debt situation was revealed only last week, with the announced resignation of its managing director. The truth is, of course, that Kupat Holim heads, the Histadrut parent body, the Health Ministry and government leaders from the prime minister and finance minister down were all fully aware of the dimensions of the crisis months ago.

They chose to ignore it, to try and keep it under wraps so as not to undermine the electoral chances of Haim Haberfeld and his Labor Party Old Guard in the Histadrut elections. The result is that the health care of over 70 percent of the population is now under threat.

There can hardly be a Histadrut member unaware that his national and union leaders all knew about the crisis, but chose to gamble with people's health rather than risk losing political power.

Those politicians lost their gamble when Haim Ramon and his hastily cobbled together list tore the Histadrut out of Labor's hands.

In Rabin's surrender to the party's Old Guard, his abandoning of health minister Haim Ramon and his plan for reforming the public health services lies the prime minister's biggest political failure, to date.

Rabin knew that reform of the Histadrut and Kupat Holim was long overdue; he had said as

lim nexms will threaten the income, possibly the very viability, of their own parties.

IT HAS long been an open secret that the Labor Party consistently bought the support of the religious parties to guarantee its continued control of the Histadrut.

This was done by granting mem-

The challenges of Kupat Holim and the Histadrut's future will be picked up by younger, daring politicians

much. He simply lost his nerve, misreading the mind of a new Israeli generation woefully.

Rabin is now finally confronting Haberfeld, demanding that he hand over the Histadrut to Ramon as speedily as possible. And he proved unusually adroit in naming Ephraim Sneh as his new health minister.

Both are welcome steps - but they are far from enough to undo Rabin's original failure of leadership.

The crisis in Kupat Holim, serious as it is, may prove easier to resolve than preserving the Histadrut as a viable and effective trade union, and developing new rules of the game for Israel's political parties now that the Histadrut has dried up as a major source of their funding.

It is still unclear when the health reform bill will pass into law, and in what form. There is now a broad consensus on the need to separate Kupat Holim dues from Histadrut dues.

But MKs from a broad spectrum of parties are holding up approval of the bill because they are horrified at the prospect that breaking the Histadrut-Kupat Ho-

bers of those parties - the National Religious Party, Agudat Yisrael, Poalei Aguda, and Shas - significant reductions in Kupat Holim fees. The parties were also permitted to hold onto 25 percent of the health service dues they collected. If those sources dry up, the parties will find themselves in serious financial trouble.

Besides which, many of their members may decide to give up their party membership once it no longer assures them cut-rate health service. It will be interesting to see how Haim Ramon deals with Shas, which is an integral part of his Ram Histadrut coalition.

One serious problem will be guaranteeing the viability of the Histadrut as an effective trade union fighting for the rights of its members, while standing up against any descent into worker-eat-worker and union-eat-union anarchy on the labor scene.

Now that the dues employees have had withheld from their salaries for health insurance and their employers' matching funds will no longer be used to finance the Histadrut, the labor federation will have to support itself. The Knesset should resist adopting any leg-

islation which will force workers to contribute to funding the Histadrut.

Given the parlous state of the Histadrut's public image, it is doubtful whether many members will be willing to pay additional dues. This could prove catastrophic. The Histadrut's new leadership, under Haim Ramon, deserves a fair chance to put a new, pared-down establishment on a new financial basis.

The Histadrut has enough saleable assets to bide it over a transitional period. But in the final analysis, its strength and viability can only be based on a voluntary membership prepared to finance its trade union federation.

One way of restoring membership confidence would be for Ramon and the new leadership around him to go public on the salaries and perks they will be taking from the Histadrut's till. Their salaries should be in keeping with those of better-paid union members, but no higher. There is absolutely no justification for union leaders setting themselves up as a new caste of vastly overpaid labor barons.

It is doubtful whether the septuagenarian, lifelong military man who is currently Labor's leader, and the country's prime minister, has what it takes to oversee the far-reaching political and societal changes that will ensue. Shimon Peres once possessed the intellectual stature and political savvy to have led his party and the country on such a course - but he chose not to.

While Rabin and Peres will continue to oversee the immediate implementation of the historic changes in Israel's relations with its Palestinian and Arab neighbors, Israel's next prime minister and ruling group will come from among the younger politicians, who prove their mettle in confronting these new challenges.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on public affairs.

A way back to the Jordanian option?

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

THE best recent close-up of Shimon Peres was the night of Ramon's Histadrut election sweep.

It showed a grim, depressed, absorbed foreign minister, oblivious to the surrounding tumult, contemplating the accumulating evidence of Labor's defeat at the polls. His demeanor contrasted with Rabin's matter-of-fact unemotional reaction.

Even more significant was the contrast between Peres's mood and that of liberal-minded, dovish young Labor MKs such as Yossi Beilin, Avram Burg, and Hagai Merom, often referred to as the coming generation in Labor's Peres camp.

Clearly Peres was out of step. Years earlier, he had failed in his own attempt to create an independent breakaway party, the short-lived Rafi list, headed by the most charismatic political personality in Israel's history, the first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. A major conclusion from the Rafi escapade, a chastened Peres confided afterwards to close associates, was that a party in the labor camp could not succeed without a party-controlled economic base.

The lack of consensus between Peres and the so-called Peres camp is not limited to organizational questions.

Peres has always opposed populism, which he associates, first and foremost, with the dark side of Menachem Begin. He opposed direct election of the prime minister and thought scandalous the Ramon-sponsored addition of "under Rabin's leadership" to the Labor party designation on the ballot in the last Knesset elections.

Not even Ben-Gurion, he remarked, latched his name onto the official party title. He is unenthusiastic about primaries, the innovation pioneered by Hagai Merom and other Peres camp-follower.

True, Peres, as faction leader, insists on the appointment of Yossi Beilin as a minister, to maintain factional strength in the government. This is simply an example of the present intra-party

personal politics without personalities, built on the remains of a system of ideological politics without ideologies.

Under current conditions, the only common denominator in the so-called Peres camp is opposition to the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin.

King Hussein was afraid of a deal with Israel. But now the curse is off

THE GAP between Peres and the Peres camp in matters of security and the peace process may be much greater than is generally suspected.

Peres has made no secret of his preference for a deal with Jordan, an opportunity that was scuttled by then prime minister Shamir in the national unity government in which Peres served as foreign minister. He long opposed any contacts with the PLO, declaring that negotiations with the Palestinians would inevitably lead to an independent Palestinian state, to which he was unalterably opposed.

It is unlikely that Peres has abandoned these fundamental positions. Assuming that he still holds to what have been cardinal beliefs for him over the years since the 1967 war, the Oslo agreement could be viewed as the inevitable consequence of Shamir's success in sabotaging the Peres opening to Jordan, an opening which culminated in the agreements Peres reached in the London negotiations with King Hussein.

Under the circumstances, a turn to the PLO had as its prime objective the avoidance of the danger of immobility. Its major consequence could be the opening of other options, in particular, the reopening of the possibility of a settlement with Jordan.

Considered from the angle of a

renewed Jordanian option, the inclusion of Jericho in the area of Palestinian self-rule takes on new meaning. After the Yom Kippur War and the first disengagement of forces agreement with Egypt, the Rabin government proposed "administrative disengagement" with Jordan.

According to the proposal, Israel would withdraw its forces from Jericho and the Nablus area, while retaining military control over the West Bank as a whole. At the same time, Jordan would assume administrative responsibility for the Arab civilian population.

William B. Quandt, Henry Kissinger's senior Middle East adviser, has explained that Hussein rejected the proposal because he feared being accused of a sellout.

POSTSCRIPTS

UNKNOWN ARTIST Paul Rehban thought he deserved to be displayed alongside the Picassos and Dalis of New York's Museum of Modern Art, so he "donated" a painting - by hanging it in the MOMA himself.

"I thought the painting would look good there," Rehban said. "It was a nice piece for the space."

Rehban was no overnight discovery: it took two nights for the mischief to be discovered.

Rehban, 33, a frequent visitor to the museum, said he strolled in one afternoon with his newly created, unframed painting inside a folder.

The coast was clear. In a corner near a fire exit, he took out some

"Above all," Quandt declared, "he could not accede to the Israeli position of administering the populated areas of the West Bank while Israel retained military control of the area."

This, of course, is more or less the deal that Arafat has accepted. The curse is off. What was unacceptable as post-Yom Kippur War "administrative disengagement" could be a possible interim settlement today.

The possibility would increase to the degree that the PLO entity becomes a destabilizing influence in Jordan. Palestinian rule in Jericho is a tangible threat. For the time being, the Jordanians have raised alarms about the economic consequences of the Palestinian autonomy. For the political consequences, the Jordanians will have to seek political answers.

One answer, of course, would be to put an end to the deal between the PLO and Israel. Hussein may accept Arafat's repeated declarations that the agreement is only temporary. As the descendant of the Prophet, Hussein should know.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HARSH SENTENCE

Sir, - Over the years preceding the Israeli bank share collapse, I had been buying Bank Leumi stock and by that time had become a very substantial or even a major shareholder. Therefore, like every other shareholder, I was directly affected by the collapse but to a considerably greater degree. Despite this, I keep wondering about the "bankers' trial," and in particular the harsh sentences imposed on Messrs. Ernst Japhet and Raphael Recanati.

Some of your readers may know that for over half-a-century I have been deeply involved as a lay person both in philanthropic leadership for Israeli institutions (JUA, the universities, Jewish Agency etc.), as well as State of Israel Bonds, Israel Investors Corp., public and private investments, and as an initiator of the Prime Minister's Economic Conferences. Because of these activities I was able to observe the results achieved by these two bankers to raise investment money for Israel, and their role in helping the finance ministry and the Bank of

Israel with Israel's foreign currency balances.

To me it is inconceivable that the bank shares operation took place without the knowledge - at the very least - of government figures. In light of this, it would seem that the sentences imposed have been given to the wrong people. Is this really justice?

If indeed there was a need to reach a verdict regarding them, the sentence should have taken into account the many services they had performed over decades to help raise Israel's foreign currency holdings and bring investors and private investment to the country.

Let me make it clear - there can be no question of a deep personal or business relationship with either of them. I have not seen or spoken to Ernst Japhet for almost 10 years and to Raphael Recanati three or four times in the past five years, only with respect to his health or a philanthropic contribution.

SAM ROTHBERG
Peoria, Illinois.

MISSING SUPPLEMENT

Sir, - Expectantly, I awaited the Shavuot issue of your newspaper. What a disappointment! Years ago, when Israel was normal, you had a special, your magazine section was full of articles on the subject and only religious articles were in it. Once a year, for Shavuot, you had articles on all religious institutions of study, but better still, you had information on the many institutions devoted to doing *hesed*.

You have been catering less and less to our beautiful holidays, the meaning of being a Jew, of doing good deeds, of helping one another. Your previous magazine section on the holidays was equally lacking in any sense of meaning, spiritual feeling, or religion.

SUSIE MANDEL
Alon Shvut.

POOR PRONUNCIATION

Sir, - As an American Jew and a friend of Israel, I respectfully suggest that your foreign minister, Shimon Peres, take time out from his diplomatic duties for a short course in English pronunciation. Gone are the days when French was the international language of diplomacy; today, it is English. That is why I cringe in shame every time Mr. Peres appears on TV here.

If Mr. Peres cannot find the time to brush up on his English pronunciation, let him do what David Levy did during his all-too-brief tenure as foreign minister. Let him speak in Hebrew, with a qualified interpreter of the Israeli Embassy serving as an interface between Peres and his audience.

FRANK HOLLAND, MD
Albany, N.Y.

WREATH-LAYING AT YAD VASHEM

Sir, - With reference to the advertisement which appeared on May 27, entitled "Declaration on Homosexual Abominations and Lesbianism," I wish to state categorically:

1. Yad Vashem is open to any individuals or groups who wish to place a wreath in the Memorial Hall.

2. Yad Vashem only allocates the time for wreath-laying ceremonies in the Memorial hall to those groups who express a desire to honor their dear ones.

3. Yad Vashem is only responsible for those ceremonies which it organizes on official occasions.

REUVEN DAFNI,
Vice Chairman
Yad Vashem
Jerusalem.

SHAMEFUL AD

Sir, - As the daughter of Holocaust victims who died in Auschwitz, I wish to protest your acceptance of the advertisement, "Declaration on Homosexual Abominations and Lesbianism" (May 27). It is shameful that this disgusting ad, which reads like a Nazi propaganda pamphlet condoning the annihilation of a minority group, should appear in an Israeli newspaper.

Sexual orientation is a matter of genetics, not choice. I fully support Gay Pride Month and the visit to Yad Vashem, and would also point out that *nobody* can be indoctrinated into homosexual practices, forcibly or otherwise. The suggestions that Israel will be overrun with AIDS-infected visitors is totally ridiculous and very insulting to these guests to our country.

MRS. GABRIELE ISAACS

Ads, like Readers' Letters, are published regardless of their contents, provided they do not constitute a legal violation - Ed, J.P.

Handwritten signature: JAVI 60 1350

A right to choose the way we want to live

ONLY the tip of the iceberg was exposed in this week's ugly rioting against gays and lesbians at Yad Vashem.

The rest of the iceberg — which has nothing to do with the Holocaust, its sacredness or otherwise, Nazis or the survivors' sensibilities — is blood-chilling, enraging, shocking.

It isn't the Holocaust we're dealing with here, but the right to be different and the imperative of equality. We're dealing with the pathetic, distorted monopoly we have on martyrdom; with the political and social perpetuation of Jewish victimhood; with the right of the victim to be hangman, and with the sanctification of the Holocaust — which had horrors and crimes without parallel, but no sanctity.

And out of this comes an easy definition, intolerable as it is unacceptable: those martyrs who do not meet the archaic, nonegalitarian and undemocratic Jewish criteria, are extraneous, deviant, defiled.

Homosexuals and lesbians were defilers of their race, like deviants and the insane. But their "cleansing" in furnaces and mass graves was just the first step on the way to Dachau and Auschwitz. In their footsteps came the millions of other "exceptions" and deviants — mainly Jews, but also Gypsies, communists, Poles and others.

The assault on Jewish homosexual "deviants" by those who sanctify the memory of millions of other "deviants" — who may or

Yael Dayan

Anyone who didn't condemn those who tried to stifle the gays at Yad Vashem is feeding the monster that lurks among us

Those who wore the pink triangle deserved the killing fields, while the yellow star gave its wearers holiness — is that it? Were the Nazis right to kill homosexuals, but criminal to kill Jews?

Did the smoke that issued from the burning bodies of the homosexuals rise up blacker than the smoke from the bodies of the Jewish rabbis, thieves and prostitutes? Was the stench of the rotting lesbian bodies stronger than

the stench of slaughtered Jewish mothers?

Dr. Yosef Burg of Yad Vashem and Deputy Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky, Esther Salmovitz, Yosef Azran and Ovadia Eli, who authorized you to decide that those who are equal before the law in Israel are "perverts," unworthy of mourning under that one roof we all share for remembrance, brothers and sisters who were murdered in the Holocaust?

But we have no need of Nazi or fascist analogies for the horrific discrimination that exists among us. It has a Jewish name, a skullcap on its head. It isn't necessarily a Holocaust survivor, and "different," as far as it is concerned, is anyone who isn't an observant Jew and a settler of Greater Israel.

Those who didn't rise and condemn the Kachniks who assaulted the gays in the Hall of Remembrance tent, those — from right or left — who didn't distance themselves unequivocally are feeding the monster, whether it preys on Arabs, secular Jews or gays. And whether it happens in the secular Knesset or "sanctified" Yad Vashem is immaterial.

Anyone who believes in our future as an egalitarian, democratic, humane society, one which accepts those who are different and supports their rights as a minority ought to wear a pink triangle, next to the yellow star and blue-and-white emblem.

The writer is a Labor MK.



'Gay' Jews who are proud of sin

Macy Gordon

UNDERLYING this week's violent confrontation at Yad Vashem is an issue of perhaps greater concern than the public commemoration of homosexuals persecuted by the Nazis.

The Tourism Ministry has apparently joined in recognizing June as "Gay Pride Month," accepting an attempt by homosexual groups to legitimize a lifestyle which has been proscribed in the strongest terms by Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This represents not merely concern for personal sexual proclivities. It is an issue that goes to the heart of Judaism and a Jewish state are all about.

The Yad Vashem issue is the easier of the two. The Nazis persecuted Jews in an act of genocide unprecedented in world history. They also persecuted Gypsies, communists and homosexuals.

Among those communists were Jews who had earlier betrayed and imprisoned fellow-Jews, who had sought to eradicate the Torah and its teachings from generations of Jews to come.

These people were a threat to the future of Judaism and its values no less than homosexuals — in many ways, more so. Yet we glibly refer to our six million martyrs, even though many of them held the Holy Name in contempt.

It ill befits any Jew to sit in judgment on those who died the death of martyrs. No one speaks of "differences" among the dead. No one distinguishes between these ashes and those.

That was not the issue at Yad Vashem this week. The private prayers of millions of visitors for

other millions they knew well or didn't know at all have always been encouraged.

But Yad Vashem was used to make a political statement about "Gay Pride." That kind of statement was not in place. It was ill-conceived. It was, perhaps, an act

denying the sin. While it is one thing to sin privately and discreetly, it is quite another to be "proud" of sin, to legitimize and welcome it, to turn it into a tourist attraction.

Would we react the same way to a movement to legitimize adultery

Imagine a month dedicated to Adultery Pride or Bestiality Pride

of desecration, straining the tolerance of those who are willing to avoid invading others' private lives, but are not prepared to legitimize an unacceptable lifestyle.

LET US talk Jewishly for a moment about homosexuality (a term which linguistically and technically includes lesbianism as well.)

Judaism is based on an absolute morality, rooted in the Torah. Relative morality may have its place in Halacha, but only in rare circumstances. This isn't one of them.

Homosexuality is a wrong form of behavior. It is proscribed and condemned. The Torah's use of the word *to'eva* (abomination) in connection with the male homosexual act indicates that one should develop a sense of revulsion toward its practice.

Homosexuality is a sin. And while great caution must be exercised in condemning a sinner, one need have no reservations in con-

the land, we should be able to recognize Jewish values for what they are, even if independent of the *Shulhan Aruch*, or Code of Jewish Law.

Jewish values are not synonymous with Western values, nor are they identical with humanism or current morality. They have their own identity. They can be accepted or rejected by each individual in his personal and private life. But a Jewish state ignores them at its peril.

A Jewish state might not pursue legal steps against an individual for acts which he may believe stem from his nature or are beyond his control. But it shouldn't legitimize them or be proud of them.

Saddest of all, even sadder than the notion of "pride," is the use of the term "gay." This is a euphemism for people who usually bear a great burden, suffer inner tension and are often morally conflicted. "Gays" are anything but gay. Those we see on TV usually have a big chip on their shoulders.

Homosexuals may overcome, or they may succumb. They may feel guilt, they may rationalize or legitimize. This they share in common with all who sin against the values according to which which they were raised.

The heterosexual, "normal" Jewish world, true to its own values, might well bear in mind the words of Bruria, as quoted in the Talmud: "Pray not for the punishment of the sinner, but for the destruction of sin. If sin can be eradicated and obliterated, then there will be no more sinners."

This is a task that calls for education, not just condemnation; for ethical direction, not legitimization. It calls for humility rather than misplaced pride.

Rabbi Gordon is director of "Just one life," an organization which provides counseling and other assistance to women with high-risk pregnancies.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1994

Cheaper stocks are still not such a good buy

NEIL COHEN

COMMENT

JUST because the stock market has fallen sharply doesn't mean shares are cheap and that people should be rushing in to snap up bargains.

Obviously stocks are a lot cheaper than they were a month ago and certainly than they were at the beginning of the year. But the economic outlook was much rosier then.

Share values are linked to a host of macroeconomic factors - GDP growth, inflation, interest rates - and their expected influence on corporate profits.

Those factors, as I wrote last week, have turned decidedly negative and were the trigger for the initial falls in the market. More and more disappointing first-quarter company results have increased the agony, and the expectation of an enlarged

budget deficit as a result of the Kupat Holim and housing crises have brought no one any cheer.

The perception that the government has lost control of the economy is what has really driven the nails into the market's coffin. Markets hate uncertainty, and this was proven again this week.

No one doubts Yitzhak Rabin's ability to make tough military and diplomatic decisions. But the government is divided and indecisive over Kupat Holim and the housing crises. No solution is in sight to the social workers' strike.

Until the government demonstrates that it has the ability and political will to assert control over the economy, investor confidence will not return.

State revenues up 13% in May to NIS 6.3b.

Increase due to income tax receipt rise

JOSE ROSENFELD

HIGHER wages, lower unemployment and a booming stock market at the end of last year pushed state revenues up 13% in real terms last month, to NIS 6.3 billion, compared with May last year, State Revenues Director Yoram Gabbai reported yesterday.

Most of the revenue increase was attributed to a sharp rise in income tax receipts from firms, and from property tax collection, which shot up 60% in real terms.

The significant growth in tax revenues since the beginning of the year reflects the expansion of business sector activity by 8% annually, said Gabbai.

Although company income taxes were lowered 1% this year to a rate of 38%, revenues soared as a result of the bullish stock market at the end of last year.

Gabbai noted that it is a one-time phenomenon, and, in light of the stock market's fall since the

beginning of the year, revenues of such magnitude are not expected in the near future.

The rise in property tax collections derived mainly from the rise in the number of real estate transactions combined with higher prices.

Since the beginning of the year, revenues totaled NIS 29.7b., a real increase of 14% compared with the same period last year. Adjusting for the legislative changes made this year, which cut revenues by NIS 500 million, tax collection actually rose by 16%.

Income tax receipts overshoot the Treasury's original estimates by NIS 1b., while Value Added Tax (VAT) and customs revenues matched them.

In May, income tax revenues reached NIS 3.3b., a real rise of 21%. Since the beginning of the year, these revenues shot up by

24%. Individual and employer tax revenues rose 12% since the beginning of the year, despite the income tax reform which lowered marginal rates since January. The increase resulted from the growth in the number of the employed as well as from the rise in real wages.

VAT and customs receipts increased 4% last month, to NIS 2.8b. Since the beginning of the year, revenues from VAT and customs reached NIS 13b., a rise of 3%.

Last month, car imports totaled 10,000, a similar average to the preceding few months and 5% more than in May last year.

Other durable imports also registered significant rises, including refrigerator imports, which rose by 71% compared to May 1993. Dishwasher imports jumped 46%, televisions 40%, laundry machines 16% and video recorders 6%.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Israel Salt buys Mashbir Food: Israel Salt Industries yesterday signed an agreement to acquire 20 percent of Mashbir Food for \$4.5 million.

Feldman buys Deco Food plant: Feldman Investments and Real Estate yesterday purchased the Deco Food Industries factory at an auction in Tel Aviv District Court. Deco is currently in receivership.

The plant, located at Kibbutz Bror Hayil near Sderot, processes dried vegetables. The deal includes the purchase of land and equipment.

Dankner Investments intends to fund Dor Chemicals' share purchase in the Polish telecommunications concern RP Telekom. Dankner will then have one year to decide whether to purchase Dor's part in RPT.

Formula Systems has acquired 100% control of Argotech, which manages the Foraz R&D venture capital fund. The fund was originally a three-way partnership set up by Formula, Sapiens and Liraz systems. In addition, Formula has purchased some 6% of Foraz from Sapiens and Liraz.

Belmon and Invest Impex have agreed in principle to a partnership to distribute Unilever products in Israel.

Geotek has filed a lawsuit against Harris-Adacom for payment owed in the amount of NIS 11m. Geotek had reported that the lawsuit claims that a loan of \$3.5m. was part of a January 1994 agreement of principle between the two companies. Geotek is demanding the sum in full, plus interest. Harris-Adacom had put up 10%, or 2.154.011, of its parent company shares as collateral on the loan. Last week, Adacom's share price plummeted over 70% in a single day on the TASE.

Geotek had requested that Adacom increase collateral in relation to current share prices.

Interpharm Laboratories disclosed yesterday it had received a letter from the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) warning that it would take legal action against the company if it did not immediately return the recombinant beta-interferon cell bank sold to Ares-Serono for \$2m. and stop transferring know-how to the company until it obtains OCS written permission.

Ogen officials released on bail

RAINE MARCUS

YA'ACOV RAMOT and Roni Ben-David, director and manager of Ogen Y.R. Investments Ltd., who are suspected of stock manipulation, were released on NIS 500,000 bail by the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday, following 10 days in custody.

The two were barred from leaving the country. The pair are suspected of working together with Elon Tzabari, manager of Bank Hapoalim's Gmuloit Provident Fund, to artificially inflate the price of stocks, which they then sold, reaping profits of millions of shekels.

Ogen manages portfolios valued at hundreds of millions of shekels. Securities Authority officials allege that many portfolios registered under false names actually belonged to Ben-David and Ramot. They allegedly chose shares in which Ogen would invest, and then informed Tzabari, who would buy the same shares to create a false demand.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (3.6.94)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.875	4.250	4.875	
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	3.875	3.875	4.500	
U.S. dollar (\$1,000,000)	4.125	4.000	4.125	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.250	3.250	3.250	
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	0.500	0.625	0.875	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.6.94)				
CURRENCIES AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.2850	3.3350		3.3080
U.S. dollar	3.0189	3.0294	2.98	3.0380
German mark	1.8325	1.8883	1.80	1.8481
French franc	4.8861	4.8488	4.48	4.8127
Japanese yen (100)	0.2383	0.2436	0.22	0.2388
Dutch florin	2.8843	2.8248	2.83	2.9025
Swedish krona	1.8342	1.8572	1.80	1.8483
Swiss franc	2.1571	2.1874	2.11	2.1723
British pound	0.3846	0.3890	0.38	0.3881
Norwegian krona	2.4228	2.4288	2.41	2.4277
Danish krone	0.4688	0.4731	0.46	0.4688
Finland mark	0.2546	0.2624	0.24	0.2577
Canadian dollar	2.1844	2.2151	2.14	2.2112
Australian dollar	2.2281	2.2594	2.17	2.2428
S. African rand	0.2515	0.2632	0.24	0.2587
Belgian franc (10)	0.8901	0.9027	0.87	0.8964
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8129	2.8487	2.68	2.8286
Italian lire (1000)	1.8843	1.9210	1.85	1.9046
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.21	4.2912
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.86	0.9466
Irish punt	3.5312	3.5808	3.44	3.5576
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2238	2.2551	2.18	2.2380

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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South African Economic Statistics

		Prices 1.6.94	Prices 25.5.94	% Change
Exchange rates:	Commercial rand (buy)	3.636	3.654	0.49%
	Financial rand (buy)	4.755	4.875	2.46%
Interest rates:	Money market (BA's)	11.20%	10.95%	2.28%
	Escrow 2008 (Ry)	13.22%	13.14%	0.61%
	Escrow 2020	13.93%	13.83%	0.72%
	RSA 150	13.94%	13.76%	1.31%
	UAL Max Income	13.29%	14.34%	-7.32%
Prices Utl:	GM Investors	40.2937	40.2937	0.00%
	Guardbank	34.7957	35.4199	-1.76%
	UAL Gilt	12.2476	12.2047	-0.46%
	Max Income	10.6389	10.6372	0.02%
Shares:	De Beers	100.25	106.75	-6.09%
	Vaal Reef	395.00	407.00	-2.95%
	Anglo American	218.25	231.00	-5.53%
	Barlows	37.35	37.75	-1.06%
	SA Brews	96.00	100.00	-4.00%
	Sasol	24.75	24.75	0.00%
	Tiger Oats	49.00	50.25	-2.49%
	Isacor	3.35	3.41	-1.76%
	JSE Actuarial Overall	5.396	5.518	-2.22%

COMMENTS: In its latest investment review, Board of Directors said that investors were unduly sceptical that fiscal and monetary discipline would be maintained in S.A. The Commercial Rand continued to weaken, the Financial Rand Discount had not narrowed materially and capital market rates had risen sharply despite a smooth political transition process and reassuring economic policy decisions. The re-appointment of Keys as Finance Minister and State as Reserve Bank Governor could allay fears. The S.A. economy could benefit from higher export volumes and prices. S.A.'s balance sheet was in good shape and much foreign finance could be used without concern of over-borrowing.

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State budget reports NIS 270m. deficit

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE state budget registered a NIS 270 million deficit in May, the Treasury reported yesterday.

Expenditures reached NIS 6.377 billion, while revenues were NIS 6.107b. The government raised NIS 30m. from its privatization activities, while it redeemed NIS 529m. more in obligations than it borrowed.

As a result of its fiscal activity,

the government injected NIS 769m. into the economy last month.

Since the beginning of the year, budget expenditures totaled NIS 33b., and revenues reached NIS 33.8b., leaving the government with a surplus of NIS 1.797b.

The government has paid NIS 204m. more in obligations than it has borrowed, so it absorbed NIS 1.593b. from the economy.

Deputy Accountant-General Avior Cohen noted that the large budget surpluses are not accumulating due to budget underperformance, but rather due to record tax revenues.

Saudi prince, bank to buy share in Euro Disney

NEIL COHEN and news agencies

SHARES in troubled leisure park operator Euro Disney leaped nearly 5 percent yesterday following Wednesday's announcement that Saudi Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Saud and United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB), of which he is chairman, are to buy a 13 percent to 24 percent stake in Euro Disney during a planned capital-raising operation.

Walt Disney could reduce its stake to 36 percent from 49.

Under the agreement, the prince will provide up to \$100 mil-

lion in a three-year financing commitment for a convention center at the resort.

The center is seen as a way to draw visitors.

A close associate of the prince, who is a grandson of the founder of Saudi Arabia, said he was a shrewd investor who looked for difficult situations in which to find a bargain.

"Whatever deal he's done with Euro Disney and Walt Disney, he

will have made money out of this transaction," the associate, who declined to be named, told Reuters in Paris.

The prince made headlines in 1991 when he invested \$800 million in the then troubled banking giant Citicorp. His paper profit on that holding currently exceeds \$1 billion.

He recently teamed up with French hotel group Accor in a 1.6 billion franc (\$284 million) offer, for which he will provide all the funds, to buy Air France's Meridien hotel chain.

Banks turn to customers for capital

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BRANCH managers of commercial banks this week asked some customers to transfer additional capital to the banks to improve their loan-to-collateral ratio, which has suffered from the recent fall in share prices.

The banks expressed concern that the public was pulling out of the stock exchange, as the market plunged another 3.7% yesterday.

The banks, especially Bank Hapoalim and United Mizrahi Bank (UMB), last year aggressively marketed loans to finance customers' purchase of mutual funds. In some cases, customers were required to pay collateral of only 10% for a loan, compared with the average 50%.

Capital market sources said branch managers are now forcing customers who are not able to put up additional collateral, to liquidate their mutual fund holdings.

"All of the banks are concerned about the drop in share prices. There is nothing we can do. Branch managers are checking individual customers and deciding what to do, we gave customers credit and must make sure the collateral we have is sufficient. The drop in stock prices is worrying," said a spokesperson for UMB.

A spokesman for Bank Hapoalim stressed the bank has not instructed branch managers to force customers who received credit to redeem their funds.

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Clinton meets pope at Vatican

TERENCE HUNT
ROME

PRESIDENT Clinton said yesterday he and Pope John Paul II made "some progress" on abortion-related issues, but the Vatican said any change would have come from Clinton, not the pope.

Clinton praised the Roman Catholic Church's "constancy and commitment" after a 40-minute meeting at the Vatican marked by differences over abortion and mutual concern over world trouble spots.

"We will still have some differences on the contraception issue," Clinton told reporters after the meeting, but he said it should be clear that the United States does not support abortion as a means of birth control.

After Clinton cast a positive glow on the talks, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said, "If he says there was a narrowing of differences, it's clear it can be only in one sense," meaning the United States would have to come closer to the pope's absolute opposition to abortion and contraception.

On the first leg of a trip celebrating the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Clinton began his day jogging through Rome and planned his first meeting with Italy's new prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi.

Berlusconi is a controversial figure because the coalition that brought him to power includes a party with neo-fascist roots.

A Vatican communiqué said the Cairo conference dominated the discussions regarding "the grave ethical problems" in the "defense and promotion of life and defense and promotion of the family in particular."

It said the pope appealed "to the responsibility of a great nation such as America, whose origin and historical development has always promoted ethical values that are basic to every culture."

While the two men were meeting, White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers was asked whether the differences on abortion were irreconcilable.

"I don't think the pope's going to change his mind," she said. Clinton's position, she said, is that abortions should be "safe,



President Clinton shakes hands with the pope at the Vatican yesterday.

legal and rare."

John Paul has been critical of Clinton's efforts to expand abortion rights. He raised the issue at their first meeting in Denver last August.

Clinton acknowledged differences with the pontiff on issues to come before the Cairo population conference in September, such as the need for increasing contraception use, but said he hoped the two sides could agree on goals.

"I think it important that the whole thrust of the Cairo conference be in the context of supporting sustainable development and strong families," Clinton said.

Administration officials said they also discussed Bosnia, Rwanda, Middle East, Poland and Eastern Europe, religious

freedom in Asia.

Clinton felt his meeting with the pope was "awe inspiring and a thoughtful discussion of the issues," said Myers.

Clinton and his wife, Hillary, toured the Sistine Chapel. He gazed up at the newly restored frescoes and said, "It's unbelievable."

Clinton gave the pope a map of America in the 1800s; the pope gave the president a mosaic representing the Colosseum.

Clinton said he spoke with the Pope about the role of Islamic states and Russia in the world and "a lot about the Middle East." He thanked John Paul for the Vatican's establishment this year of diplomatic ties with Israel.

"The things we always revered about the Catholic Church was its sense of constancy and commitment," Clinton said. "The Catholic Church has brought together faith and action, word and deed."

Mrs. Clinton and her mother, Dorothy Rodham, joined the papal audience near the end, along with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano.

Clinton's visit to Rome came two days before the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Rome - raises the curtain on celebrations of Allied landings in Italy and France.

Clinton began his week-long European trip with a morning jog

above the Spanish Steps. It was a bright, warm morning with a clear view of the city and the Vatican across the Tiber River.

Clinton, in blue shorts, red baseball cap and gray t-shirt, jogged alongside Reginald Bartholomew, the US ambassador to Italy. They came up to a cement railing, looking out over Rome to St. Peter's Basilica, and the ambassador pointed out the sights.

Rome was Clinton's first stop on an eight-day journey to Italy, England and France. The highlight will be a huge ceremony in Normandy on Monday marking the June 6, 1944, invasion that broke Hitler's heavily fortified Atlantic Wall and led to the end of World War II. (AP)

US likely to seek UN sanctions against N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The UN's atomic energy agency reported yesterday its inspectors could no longer verify that North Korea hadn't diverted nuclear fuel.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's New York office said the finding was being reported to the 15-nation Security Council, which the United States is expected to ask to impose economic sanctions against North Korea.

The United States suspects that North Korea siphoned off materials when it last refueled the reactor in 1989 without IAEA inspectors present.

UN sources said a report by IAEA director Hans Blix had been sent to the United Nations and would be distributed to the Security Council late yesterday. Blix was expected to come to New York soon, probably today, and brief the council.

A statement released by the IAEA in New York said: "On the basis of reports from its safeguards inspectors in [North Korea] the IAEA has drawn the conclusion the discharge of spent fuel from a five megawatt experimental nuclear power reactor has now made it impossible to select fuel rods for later measurements which would show whether there has been any diversion of fuel in past years."

Diplomats said the only way now to determine whether fuel had been diverted was to conduct

special inspections at two waste sites. North Korea refused access to these sites about 15 months ago in a move that began the controversy over a possible nuclear weapons program.

Earlier, a senior White House official accompanying President Clinton on his European trip said the US expected such a finding.

"When the letter is sent and we expect it almost certainly will be unless something dramatic happens, then we will pursue the issue of sanctions at the Security Council," the official said.

The official said he was not in a position to say if China would go along with the sanctions or exercise its veto in the Security Council.

China has not been enthusiastic about sanctions but has not said it would veto a sanctions resolution, the official said. He said the US would take the issue before the Security Council "with real persistence to build a consensus."

Earlier, Clinton said the UN Security Council would have to consider economic sanctions against North Korea if the International Atomic Energy Agency made such a determination.

Clinton, at a news conference with Italy's prime minister, said North Korea will be to blame if the UN agency determined that it no longer can verify the amount of plutonium North Korea produced in its experimental reactor.

N. Yemen ignores UN call, attacks Aden

ADEN (Reuters) - A northern Yemeni missile killed or wounded about 20 people in the southern city of Aden yesterday just hours after the United Nations called for a ceasefire between north and south, security and hospital sources said.

Throughout the day, the boom of artillery and anti-aircraft guns could be heard in the city from frontline battles between attacking northern troops and southerners determined to force them back.

South Yemen, which seceded from a four-year-old merger with the north on May 21 with Aden as its capital, promptly called on the UN Security Council to force the northerners to obey the call for a ceasefire in their month-long war.

It also appointed a cabinet to underline the secession. Former Yemeni Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr al-Attas heads the cabinet, which also includes former opposition leaders

Abdallah al-Asnaji and Mohsen Farid.

Hospital officials said about 15 men praying at a mosque in Aden's Sheikh Othman suburb were wounded by shrapnel when southerners shot down a northern missile fired at dawn. Five more people were wounded nearby, they said.

Southern Vice-President Abdel-Rahman Ali al-Jifri told Reuters some worshippers were killed but he did not have an exact figure. Two other missiles were fired but landed on an island and in the sea, he added.

About 50 angry residents shouted slogans denouncing northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh. "Saleh, you murderer," they shouted. "Long live Aden."

Pools of blood stained the open courtyard at the mosque, Reuters photographer Marwan Naamani said.

The rival forces went to war on May 4 after a long dispute between their leaders following

the union of the former North and South Yemen in 1990.

The northern government in Sanaa opposes UN involvement in the war that it terms an internal conflict between it and southern rebels, but an emergency cabinet meeting yesterday nonetheless gave a cautious welcome to the UN resolution.

It said the resolution was based on the unity of Yemen.

The only affirmation of Yemeni unity was the use of the title "Republic of Yemen" - the official name of the state after the merger. "Republic of Yemen - that's enough," said one official, adding that the resolution was not binding.

Immediately after the resolution the southern Yemenis sent a message to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali welcoming and accepting the ceasefire.

Fighting continues in Kigali

NAIROBI (AP) - Cease-fire talks resumed yesterday in Rwanda's capital after a night of shelling, mostly on the western edges of Kigali where rebels advanced to tighten their grip on the city.

United Nations spokesman Abdul Kabia said the heaviest fighting was near Gadhafi Corner, a rebel-held intersection on the west side that controls access to the road to Gitarama, the army's last avenue of retreat.

Army gunners also targeted rebel positions at the airport for the first time since insurgents captured it nearly two weeks ago. Three rounds hit the tarmac but did not cause any casualties or disrupt UN aid flights into the city.

A morning lull in the fighting allowed UN aid workers to resume deliveries of food and water to about 25,000 stranded civilians living under UN protection in Kigali. Heavy shelling in the city center had halted the aid convoys on Wednesday.

More than 2 million people have fled their homes in Rwanda, where nearly two months of fighting and ethnic savagery have claimed an estimated 200,000 lives. Most of the victims were minority Tutsis murdered by the militias of extremist Hutu political parties.

The butchering of civilians by the militias has been accompanied by renewed fighting between the mostly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front rebel movement and the Hutu-dominated government army. The civil war has claimed far fewer lives than ethnic violence.

Monday's first round of UN-mediated cease-fire talks in Kigali produced no tangible results, and prospects for progress yesterday seemed dim.

Brig. Gen. Henry Adyidoho, deputy commander of the UN forces, told Britain's ITN television news Wednesday that neither side seems interested in a cease-fire.

Yesterday's talks were scheduled to focus on a UN proposal for bringing about a truce and on rebel demands that the army first stop the massacres and allow the free movement of all displaced people in the country.

The rebel forces have seized control of most of the north and east of Rwanda. The interim government has withdrawn from Kigali to Gitarama, 45 kms to the southeast. But the insurgents are advancing on that city.

The rebels have captured much of Kigali, but the army is still putting up stiff resistance from at least three strongholds in the city. Thousands of Rwandans remain trapped in hotels, stadiums and churches throughout Kigali. The city, once home to 350,000 people, has become a crumpled, glass-strewn ghost town.

Bosnians pull out of talks

SARAJEVO (AP) - Bosnia's Muslim-led government yesterday pulled out of UN-sponsored ceasefire talks in Geneva after Bosnian Serbs failed to withdraw armed men from around the enclave of Gorazde.

Almost simultaneously, the United Nations postponed the talks in the Swiss city.

"The negotiations about the cease-fire cannot start for the time being because the precondition, the withdrawal of enemy soldiers, was not met," Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told reporters.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and the elected president of the newly formed Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia, Kresimir Zubak, arrived in Geneva yesterday for what were supposed to be talks on arranging a cease-fire throughout Bosnia.

D-day veterans somber as they gather for 50th anniversary weekend

SOUTHEAST (Reuters) - Somber war veterans wept quiet tears of remembrance yesterday as hundreds of old soldiers gathered for the 50th anniversary this weekend of the cruelest days of their lives.

Under overcast skies old men now more used to walking sticks than rifles were collecting in a Veterans Center near where world leaders will gather to begin to honor the living and the dead from the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944.

"This is all in memory of those of our mates who got killed," said Briton Ken Eckstein, 73, who was meeting friends before travelling to the war graves of Normandy. "It will be worthwhile if it reminds people what war is all about."

"It's best to leave the rejoicing until the 50th anniversary of the end of the war, next year," said Robert Franklin, 71, who ferried ammunition onto the beaches when D-Day opened the Second Front against Hitler's armies.

"Don't mention the word celebration to me, it makes me cringe," said Reg Cooper, praising a British government decision to backtrack on early plans for D-Day festivities in favor of remembrance events.

"Some of my friends were killed alongside me, by German mortars. We have a duty to remember them now," said Cooper, 73, a former Royal Engineer.

Up to 30,000 World War Two veterans are expected to congregate in the southern England port town of Portsmouth and its beachfront district Southsea for weekend religious and military ceremonies marking the 50th year since the D-Day fleet left on its journey across choppy seas.

Thousands more will be in Northern France for further ceremonies, to visit graveyards and to be reunited with old friends.

Many of the veterans fought back tears as they talked of colleagues they lost in the first hours of fighting. Fred Snowden was only 19 when his landing craft hit a

sandbank and capsized in the first wave of the invasion, drowning many of his friends.

"One minute I was talking to them, the next they were drowned. I'll never forget it. I can still see them and remember all their names," Snowden said.

Royal Marine Commando Fred Smith, 80, broke down as he recalled colleagues lost on assaults on German-held ports in France early in the war and others who were amongst the nearly 37,000 allied dead in the Normandy campaign.

For some the memories were a little easier to bear. Australian navy officer Stan Lands, 73, said he remembered D-Day happily. "I was responsible for 200 Canadian troops and I got them all safely ashore on June beach."

"It's because of guys like me that you are not speaking German. I helped when it was my time to help," said US veteran Henry Martin, 69, who opened the bow doors of his landing craft on the sands of France early on the morning of June 6, 1944.

15m. Ethiopians registered for historic vote on Sunday

ADDIS ABABA (Reuters) - Millions of Ethiopians will shrug off centuries of rule by feudal kings and a Marxist dictator on Sunday when they vote in elections for a constituent assembly.

The ballot for the 547-strong assembly will be monitored by at least 300 international observers and hundreds of Ethiopians from human rights and democracy groups, the Electoral Board's legal affairs head Samson Gethaun said yesterday.

Samson said more than 15 million people were registered to vote out of a population of 55 million, including about 600,000 from the capital Addis Ababa which accounts for 23 constituencies.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) of President Meles Zenawi, whose guerrilla army overthrew Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in May 1991, is expected to win most seats.

In a Victory Day speech to commemorate the fall of Addis Ababa to his forces three years ago last week, Meles urged all Ethiopians to cast votes.

"It is only when the Ethiopian people vote for their true representatives in the assembly that they can rest assured a sensible constitution will be framed," he said.

Samson said official results would be released on July 1 but provisional releases would be made before then.

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Ramon to take over Histadrut by end of June

CONTROL of the Histadrut will be transferred from Labor to Ram, the Ramon-Meretz-Shas list, by the end of this month. Labor leaders decided yesterday at a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

They also decided to hold the Histadrut convention, which will approve the transfer of power, on June 29 and to cancel all the agreements with the Likud made by local labor council secretaries.

At the same time, Ram and Labor's negotiation committees decided to resume coalition negotiations at 10 a.m. at Mapam

House. Earlier yesterday, outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld, who is still hospitalized, authorized his deputy Meir Gatt to head Labor's Histadrut faction and negotiation team.

Labor's team for the Histadrut negotiations was summoned to the Prime Minister's Office this afternoon to speed up the transfer of the Histadrut leadership.

Ministers David Liba'i and Avraham Shohat deplored the foot-dragging in passing over the Histadrut reins so far, and said it is imperative that the convention meet as soon as possible, even if this is not provided for in the

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Histadrut constitution, because those who wrote it never imagined having to hand over the power to another party.

The steering committee decided to advance the date of the Histadrut convention to the end of the month, mainly because of the Kupat Holim crisis and the desire to transfer the power in the Histadrut as soon as possible and in an orderly fashion.

In summing up the meeting, Rabin said that Labor will insist on implementing the party's political bureau and central com-

mittee decisions to cancel all the coalition agreements made with the Likud on the local labor council level.

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvili presented five basic starting points for the negotiations: Labor will attempt to prevent the Histadrut's division into separate elements; the parties will avoid dismissals for political reasons of Labor officials on the professional level; the parties will not harm the function of systems related to the Histadrut such as Na'amat, the Agricultural Center, the kibbutz and

moshavim movement, etc.; and structural changes will be made on the basis of agreement.

Gatt sent letters to all Labor's leaders in the local labor councils advising them of the party's decision concerning the agreements with the Likud. He said yesterday that if necessary, he would not hesitate to use his authority to cancel these agreements.

The general elections committee yesterday published the final results of the Histadrut elections: Ram - 46.20%; Emek (Labor) - 32.82%; Mahal (Likud and Tzomet) - 17.29%; JL (the Joint Jewish-Arab List) - 3.69%.

Turkish president: Ties with Israel important

DAVID MAKOVSKY

TURKISH President Suleiman Demirel said this week that closer ties with Jerusalem are in Ankara's strategic interest.

Turkish air force commander Gen. Anis Burhan is currently visiting Israel, the highest Turkish military official to ever visit here, government officials say.

The two countries are expected to exchange military attaches within the next couple of weeks.

Burhan is not the only Turkish official to be visiting Israel. Prof. Erdal Enonu, chairman of the Turkish Grand Assembly foreign affairs committee, is leading the first-ever parliamentary delegation to Israel.

On Wednesday, Demirel told reporters that Ankara must improve ties with moderate regimes in the Middle East including Israel, apparently to stave off the specter of insurgent Islamic militancy.

Demirel said Turkey needs to "deepen, strengthen relations with the most significant countries

as far as Turkish foreign policy is concerned in the foreseeable future, Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia."

Israeli officials reacted enthusiastically to Demirel's remarks. A senior Foreign Ministry official said "it is very important to Israel. It is a secular Moslem state looking for stability and economic opportunities. The ground for mutual cooperation is growing steadily."

Indeed, enhanced relations between Jerusalem and Ankara can be seen in the fact that Turkey has already given Israel its draft for a free trade agreement, and formal negotiations for free trade are supposed to begin next month. The trade volume between the two countries currently equals approximately \$300 million.

Another source of economic cooperation between the two countries is tourism. About 200,000 Israelis have flocked to Turkish beaches and casinos within the last year.

Housing to be found for Holon residents evicted from illegal shanties

RAINE MARCUS and Itim

A COMPROMISE was reached between Housing Ministry officials and some 50 Holon residents who clashed with police yesterday when they were evicted from illegally constructed shanties in the city's Jesse Cohen neighborhood. Six people were arrested, and the shanties were razed.

Under the compromise, the Housing Ministry would work to find rental housing for those evicted who are eligible for housing assistance, and released two women and a man they had detained. In return, the residents promised to refrain from disturbing the peace.

Two pregnant women claimed they had been beaten by police during the fracas, but police said they should file a complaint if they believe they were treated roughly.

When municipal officials accompanied by police went to bulldoze the huts and evict the residents, 20 families blocked traffic and burned tires. Police vehicles and buses were pelted with potatoes.



Uzi Meshulam speaks to reporters in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. (Ailon Roa/Israel Sun)

Meshulam fires lawyers, asks Amnesty Int'l to help him 'fight Ashkenazim' and police

RAINE MARCUS

UZI Meshulam fired his lawyers yesterday, hired a new defense lawyer, and also appointed a German attorney from Amnesty International to "fight the Ashkenazim" and the police.

"The Nazis during the Holocaust were *hasidim olam* compared to the legal system here," said Meshulam. "During the Third Reich trials were conducted fairly."

Meshulam, who is incarcerated in the Abu Kabir lock-up, said he has established the "Abu Kabir yeshiva" there.

"I am happy and proud to be in jail," he told reporters.

He said charges against him

were "trumped up," and that the police, not his followers, were murderers.

Following his indictment on charges including aggravated assault, illegal possession and manufacture of arms and attacking police officers, Meshulam and eleven of his followers appeared in Tel Aviv District Court for a remand hearing.

The prosecution requested he be remanded until trial, citing the "severity of the charges," but Meshulam's new defense lawyer, Dror Makrin, asked for an adjournment to enable him to study

the case and evidence.

"I will be asking for my client's bail," he said.

Judge Aryeh Even-Ari set June 27 to hear defense arguments against custody. Meanwhile, the defendants will remain in Abu Kabir.

The prosecution said that Meshulam should not be released because "for two months he and his followers terrorized Yehud residents, the police and took the law into their own hands."

During the hearing, Meshulam's supporters constantly interrupted proceedings until Even-Ari threatened to eject them from the courtroom.

Ben-Yair recommends indicting MK Vanunu

EVELYN GORDON

MK Yosef Vanunu (Labor) should be indicted on charges of bribery, fraud and violating the public trust, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair decided yesterday.

Ben-Yair said he has already asked the Knesset to remove Vanunu's parliamentary immunity, which must be done before an indictment can be filed in court.

The draft indictment relates to an agreement made in 1989 between Vanunu, who was head of the Kiryat Malachi local council, and Gabi Alush, who had been elected to the council on the Likud list. In exchange for Alush's agreeing to join Vanunu's coalition, Vanunu promised him a job on the Kiryat Malachi workers' council, in the Hapoel organization.

Alush was promised that the job would last at least five years, and would pay a net salary of at least NIS 3,000 a month. He was not expected to do any work in exchange for this salary.

Since Shlomo Sofer, the secretary of the local council and Vanunu's deputy, was also involved in the affair, Ben-Yair plans to indict him on the same charges. Alush will be indicted as well, on charges of bribe-taking.

Vanunu said yesterday that he was innocent of any wrongdoing and would prove his innocence in court.

"The coalition agreement was the type found in any worker's council...I did not pay one cent of [Alush's] salary."

Vanunu accused Ben-Yair of being "political."

"There is an atmosphere of hostility towards mayors," he said. "It is in fashion now to immediately accuse mayors of any crime."

Tsur, Sheves agree on plan to save financially troubled kibbutzim

AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'acov Tsur and the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Shimon Sheves, yesterday agreed on a plan to transfer NIS 405 million to 35 kibbutzim in serious financial trouble.

The funds will be taken from the regular budgets of various government ministries, and will not require any new budget appropriations. The plan must now go to the prime minister, finance minister and the heads of the Jewish Agency for approval.

The kibbutzim involved are not only in debt but have operating deficits, and require a revamping of their operations.

In addition to the special funding, attempts will be made to form partnerships between successful kibbutz industries and the failing kibbutzim, and establish an investment scheme that would make it easier for entrepreneurs to invest in kibbutzim.

The plan is essentially the expansion of a project to aid ailing kibbutzim that has been in effect for a year.

Twenty of the additional kibbutzim are affiliated with Hakibbutz Ha'artzi, and 15 with the United Kibbutz Movement. Six are near the borders and 18 are in areas considered "priority areas" for investment and tax breaks. (Itim)

Satmar: No attempts made to get Yemenite olim to leave

BATSHEVA TSUR

A SPOKESMAN for the Satmar rebbe in the US has expressed anger and shock at recent media reports concerning the interaction between members of the community and recent arrivals from Yemen.

Rabbi Hertz Frankel also said, in a telephone interview, that the Satmar community would "try as hard as we can to influence Yemenite Jews to stay in the US."

He said this was because "historically it was clear that the Yemenite Jews would have a better chance to remain religious in the US than in a non-religious kibbutz or moshav where they have been shoved for the past 50 years."

He was reacting to reports in *The Jerusalem Post* quoting a Yemenite olim concerning attempts on the part of the Satmar hassidim to bribe new immigrants to leave Israel. "I was extremely shocked that such a piece could

appear in a respectable newspaper," Frankel said last night.

He said he was planning to come to Israel next week and to look into the accusations.

Referring to allegations voiced by the veterans that the Satmars were "holding Yemenite children hostage" by refusing to let them leave their yeshiva, Frankel said: "It is not even worth denying this. It is a malicious lie, a blood libel against the most respected Jewish spiritual leader in the world who has tens of thousands of followers, the most revered Satmar rebbe."

He said the children were free to come and go as they wished at the special Satmar program for Yemenite children in Monroe, New York and at a similar haredi program in Lakewood, New Jersey. "The accusations are totally fabricated by the Jewish Agency's agents who have finally found re-

sistance to their monopoly of the Yemenite Jews," he said.

On Wednesday, MK Emanuel Zissman, head of the Knesset's aliya committee, called on the Jewish Agency to lodge complaints with the police about activities of the Satmar hassidim in absorption centers. Frankel called on him to renounce his immunity and face "blood libel charges" in court.

Earlier, veteran Yemenite olim had charged that there were cases of sexual harassment of Yemenite boys by Satmar hassidim. To this, Frankel responded: "This statement is a cheap shot by Jewish antisemites who themselves have been responsible for alienating Yemenite Jews from religious life and forcing them to abandon mitzvot since the inception of the state."

"Molestation? God forbid. There are 18,000 boys and girls in our school system. We don't even know this terminology," he added.

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Palestinians determined to stay put

Israelis and Palestinians worry that each will try to change the status quo in Jerusalem before final talks, Jon Immanuel reports

WITH the signing of the Gaza/Jericho agreement, the battle for Jerusalem has begun. Faisal Husseini announced to a crowd of almost 500 in Bethlehem's Rooftop Gardens restaurant three weeks ago.

Husseini, who has been offered a position on the Palestinian Authority (PA) dealing with Jerusalem affairs, is still sitting on the fence. This is partly because he doubts Israel would deal with him if he were in charge of Jerusalem affairs for the Gaza/Jericho self-rule council. And Husseini said that given the choice of sitting on the authority or dealing with Jerusalem, "I prefer to stay in Jerusalem."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has angered Israelis with talk of "liberating" Jerusalem, and Husseini has focused his campaign on defending the position of Orient House in east Jerusalem. Israelis fear Orient House, which still has some of the trappings of the quasi-diplomatic status it had as headquarters of the local Palestinian negotiating team before Oslo, is becoming the symbol of Arafat's ambitions. At least until November, Orient House stationery was headed with the words "State of Palestine" and a map showing all Israel and the territories.

Since the Cairo agreement, Orient House has hosted foreign dig-

nitaries, such as Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa on May 5, to discuss aid to Gaza and Jericho. Such meetings could be considered against the spirit of the Cairo agreement.

According to a Foreign Ministry source, "We do not object to meetings with foreign officials [at Orient House] if they are to serve the interests of Jerusalem residents. But all institutions connected with Gaza and Jericho have to go to Jericho or Gaza."

Both the Israelis and the Palestinians are concerned that the other side will attempt to change the status quo in Jerusalem ahead of the final talks in two to three years' time. Thus Husseini talks about the closure of Jerusalem as a "political" closure, and Israelis are concerned that Palestinian guards and flags, and visiting foreign dignitaries, take on greater significance in light of Israeli recognition of the PLO.

Eastern Jerusalem, the largest, wealthiest and most central Arab-population site across the Green Line, has long been the focus of cultural, religious, economic and political life for all the Arab towns around it, including Jericho. Palestinians say that any attempt to shift an institution from Jerusalem to Jericho, for whatever reason, is tantamount to trying to change Jerusalem's status in the territories.



But Foreign Ministry sources say that Israel wants to transfer only a handful of "new" institutions set up after the Oslo accord in September specifically to serve the PA.

This is reinforced by a letter, quoted yesterday in *Ha'aretz*, which was sent last September by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to the late Norwegian foreign minister Jorgen Holst. It stated Israel's commitment to respecting existing "social, religious and other" institutions.

MOST NOTABLE among those institutions set up since the accord is the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), which is to be responsible for dispensing \$2.4 billion in pledged foreign aid in Gaza and Jericho over the next five years.

But acting director Hassan Abu-Libdeh maintains that PECDAR is meant to facilitate Palestinian development everywhere across the Green Line. This claim will only be valid, however, after

"early empowerment" is extended through administrative elections throughout the territories. Foreign Ministry officials say.

PECDAR's new offices are, in fact, just outside the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem in Dahiyat al Barid. But, government officials insist that "the issue is not whether it is in Jerusalem, but whether it is under the authority of the PA." To nudge it on its way, "Bezek has refused to put in telephone lines, but offered us seven in Jericho," said PECDAR

economist Mohammed Shitayeh. The office currently operates with two mobile phones.

In addition to PECDAR, the Bureau of Statistics, an important adjunct of PECDAR and also headed by Abu-Libdeh, was set up since the accord, by "presidential" decree in February. The new Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation currently operates from the East Jerusalem offices of its director, Radwan Abu Ayyash.

Some institutions established before the accord, like the Center

for Applied Research in Education, will want to serve the PA. Director Ghassan Abdullah says his current plans include teacher-training workshops for Jericho's expanded education system.

In cases such as this, "we would have to see what justification there is to move it to the PA or to establish a separate branch," a Foreign Ministry source said.

But there are dozens of PLO-affiliated institutions - social, religious, professional, and research bodies - in East Jerusalem that are supported wholly or partly by PLO factions, Hamas or Jordan.

Foreign Ministry sources insist that political affiliation is not the main criterion for deciding if an institution should be moved. If the PLO publishes its planned new newspaper, *Fajr al Shaab* (Dawn of the People), in Jerusalem, "the issue will be whether its primary target is in Gaza and Jericho or outside," a security source said.

But the future of Orient House remains a central issue. The presence of guards, who protected members of the Washington peace team when death threats were issued by the Palestinian opposition, appears more sinister now that the team is no longer active.

An unofficial document circulating in the Jerusalem Municipality mentions "interrogations" of Palestinians within the building. Reports, mainly from the Palestinian left and the Israeli right, maintain there are guns in Orient House. But Husseini's spokesman Ma'en Erakat said: "We do not have armed guards and have never requested them." The monitoring organization Peace Watch maintains that such reports at this stage are "rumors only."

"Orient House is here as part of the peace process and not as part of the interim agreement," Husseini insisted at a press conference on Monday. Because it existed before Oslo, Husseini maintains, it is part of the agreement that Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem will be respected.

But what made Orient House unique among Palestinian institutions was its received status under the Madrid formula. Since then, Madrid and the local negotiating team have become history and Oslo and Cairo are now the reference points of the peace process. Israel is saying that Orient House, like Husseini himself, must reinvent itself.

Tunis vs. territories: A split in the making

Onetime PLO loyalists are rocking the autonomy boat, Steve Rodan and Jacob Dallah report

MANUEL Hassassian finished a lecture explaining the PLO's successful strategy in its quest for statehood. Then came questions from the audience at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute regarding the nature of Palestinian authority and society. Hassassian, dean of the arts faculty at Bethlehem University, didn't mince words.

"It will take a lot of guts for the Palestinians to sort out their differences," Hassassian said this week. "I do foresee a conflict, and it will be a bloody one."

Hassassian's assessment is typical of pro-PLO academics and professionals. They are giving a cold welcome to the hundreds of PLO bureaucrats, along with three ministers, set to arrive by the end of the weekend from Tunis to help administer the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Most of these Palestinian professionals expect Arafat to continue

a style of leadership marked by nepotism and personal loyalty. Perhaps there will be elections and even an opposition press, they say, but the real power will rest with Arafat and his buddies, determined much in the same way as 60 years ago, when clan feuding was the norm.

"We have a traditional society," Hassassian said, "a tribal mentality. How would elections now be different from those during the 1930s and 1940s? ... Would a Hassassian get elected because of his ideas? No, but Jaabari [a member of a prominent Hebron family] would get 5,000 votes because of his family."

The harshness of the criticism by local Palestinians, far better educated than the arriving PLO bureaucrats, is startling, considering the loyalty to Arafat many of them expressed only months ago.

Today, many of them warn of a split between the Tunis leadership and local residents.

The complaints and warnings of local Palestinian professionals are directed toward Western audiences, and for good reason. Western diplomats say that the nature of the Palestinian authority will determine the level of aid it receives. If the authority is perceived as efficient, democratic, and professional, Western governments will fulfill their commitments. If not, the \$1.2 billion in pledges won't be fulfilled.

"Basically, they [Western donors] are looking to see competent municipalities," said Salah Abdul Shafi, Gaza coordinator for the donor nations to the authority. "Funds are allocated for physical infrastructure, such as a sewage system." Despite the pledges, the municipalities are not functioning. "It's totally paralyzed. There is a lack of decision-making."

"The donors are asking for in-

stitutional infrastructure, and Arafat first wants the operating funds," said Shafi, son of Arafat critic Haidar Abdel-Shafi.

For the first time, Arafat has to meet a civil service payroll. The PLO has calculated an operating budget deficit of \$127 million for 1994, assuming the authority cannot collect taxes until July.

The PLO, with Norwegian help, is trying to make up for the shortfall with Western donations. It has \$19 million in pledges. At the end of the month, the authority has to pay 7,000 employees of the former civil administration, plus the Palestinian police.

Hisham Awartani, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the economic talks in Paris and a leading economist, says he is uncertain which way the self-rule authority will go. "We have extreme concern over the quality of management," he said.

For Awartani, the question is simple: Will Arafat use the Palestinian professional class in the territories, or will he depend on the Tunis bureaucracy and perpetuate his one-man rule? Awartani's stark warning makes one forget that he has been regarded as a

staunch Arafat loyalist.

"Arafat will get a new education from the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza," he said. "We hope that Tunis will take the Palestinians seriously in their commitment to democracy."

Eyad Sarraj agrees. A prominent psychologist from the Gaza Strip, Sarraj has long been a firm nationalist aligned with the PLO, and has chronicled the emotions of the now 800,000 people in Gaza, linking their mental health with their national ambitions.

Sarraj says his compatriots are undergoing a wrenching period. Israel has largely left the Gaza Strip, and the Palestinians are being forced to look inward and forget national ambitions.

"We have to contemplate losing the dream of liberating all of Palestine. That would mean guilt and grief," he told the Hebrew University conference.

Sarraj says the Palestinians must undergo democratization. That goes beyond elections. It means installing professionals in key positions and making expertise the key to advancement. "The factors playing against the Palestinians are much greater than the factors playing for them," Sarraj said. "The leadership of the PLO has lost its credibility."

Still, these Palestinians appear to just want to rock the boat rather than tip it over. Take Majid Zaim, for example. The Gaza City resident took out a front-page ad in Wednesday's *Al-Kuds* daily to say that he has been waiting for a phone line since 1980.

"I ask that the Palestinian national authority fulfill the rights of the citizen," he wrote.

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Post-Cold War American Interests in the Middle East
15:00-18:30 (Senate Hall)
Moshe Arad, Steven David, Itzhak Zilberman, Robert Rothstein
U.S. - Israeli Relations and the Peace Process
19:00 - 20:30 (Senate Hall)
Les Aspin, Yossi Beilin

Tuesday, June 7, 1994
American Conflict Management in the Middle East and the Peace Process
9:00-11:15 (Senate Hall)
David Good, Y. Bar-Siman-Tov, Shibley Telhami, Barry Rubin
The Internal American Scene
15:00-18:30 (Senate Hall)
Charles Lipson, Zvi Rabin, Kenneth Wald, Harry Kney-Tal
American Aid and Cooperation
18:45-19:30 (Senate Hall)
Dan Halperin, Michael Beensstock, Alex Keynan

Wednesday, June 8, 1994 (Please note changes in hours)
The American Jewish Community
9:00-10:30 (Senate Hall)
Arthur Hertzberg, Gabi Sheffer, Shlomo Slonim
Strategic Aspects
10:45-12:15 (Senate Hall)
Geoffrey Kemp, Shai Feldman
14:00-15:30 (Majorsdorf Faculty Club, Rm 502)
Edward Luttwak, John Steinbruner
Israel's Image in the U.S. and the American Image in Israel
15:45-17:00 (Majorsdorf Faculty Club, Rm 502)
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A Palestinian trial balloon on the 'right of return'

A PLO official offers a solution to the refugee problem which addresses Israeli fears, Abraham Rabinovich reports

A Jerusalem's Ulpan Beit Ha'am, where we studied Hebrew together in the summer of 1967, Ziad Abu Zayyad was by far the best student in the class. When the teacher was summoned away, the Jewish students by acclamation would call on Zayyad, a young lawyer from east Jerusalem, to take over the class.

He not only learned Hebrew but also came to understand the Hebrews. Last month, when he appeared on the television talk show *Popolitika*, it was not to debate the issues of the day as a PLO official, but to address a primal Israeli concern — the Palestinian demand for the "right of return" to the pre-1967 boundaries of Israel.

Zayyad, who heads the PLO delegation to the negotiations on regional security in the current peace talks, attempted to deliver a startling message to the Israeli public, but in the anarchical atmosphere of the television program it went virtually unnoticed.

The Palestinians understand that Israel cannot accept the mass return of refugees to the pre-1967 borders, he said, and therefore are willing to consider financial compensation instead. None of the Israeli participants in the program seemed to hear him.

In an interview this week, Zayyad elaborated on his remark. He said his comment reflected a view widely held in the PLO leadership. "In principle, the refugees of 1948 have the right to return to their homes and lands inside the green line."

"They were driven out of their homes, if not by physical pressure, then by psychological pressure. As civilians they have the right to leave a battlefield and the right to come back when the fighting stops."

"However, it seems obvious that the implementation of this right would be very difficult, if not impossible, because Israel is concerned about protecting its Jewish majority."

"It can be expected that Israel will not allow the return of these refugees because this would endanger its Jewish character and turn it into a binational state, which is something Israel would not accept."

THE question of the 1948 refugees, Zayyad says, should be addressed within the framework of Security Council Resolution 194 which calls for resolving the problem by allowing the refugees back or paying them compensation.

"Many of these refugees are economically and socially well off where they are now and would prefer to stay there rather than become refugees again in their own homeland," Zayyad says. "Their situation will be, it seems to me, like that of the Jews in the world who choose to stay where they are but still support the idea of the Jewish State."

Many of the Palestinians inhabiting refugee camps in southern Lebanon, Syria and Jordan would not readily abandon their dream of returning to their former homes, he acknowledges. How, then, would he attempt to persuade them to accept compensation?

"There will not be a need to persuade," Zayyad says. "This will be a national compromise." The level of compensation would, however, be an important factor in reconciling the 1948 refugees to life elsewhere, he says.

"If a refugee in a camp would be given enough compensation to start a new life with dignity and economic stability, maybe he won't need convincing."

Would Syria, Lebanon and Jordan agree to Palestinian refugees settling permanently in their countries?



Zayyad: It seems obvious that implementation of the right of return would be very difficult because of Israel's concern with protecting its Jewish majority. (Uaely)

This would be part of an overall settlement and must be discussed by a committee made up of all the countries involved."

Some PLO officials put the number of 1948 refugees and their offspring today at four million, while Israeli officials talk of two to three million. The 1988 UN figure for refugees in camps in the territories and surrounding Arab countries was 2.3 million.

Zayyad makes a clear distinction between the 1948 refugees and those who fled during and immediately after the Six Day War. The latter, he says, must be permitted to return to the territories. But not immediately.

"About 300,000 left in 1967. Today their number is 700,000 - 800,000. If they were allowed to return at one time they would constitute a burden on the Palestinian national authority. But they should be allowed to return to the West Bank and Gaza during the transitional period... They will not constitute a demographic threat to the Jews."

A third group which should be permitted to return immediately, he says, are the 17,000 - 18,000 persons who left the territories with Israeli permits but failed to return before their permits expired.

THE MAIN problem, however, remains the mass of 1948 refugees whose dreams of returning to places such as Jaffa and Lod constitute for Israel an existential threat. "If we negotiate in good faith, I

am pretty sure we can reach a civilized solution," says Zayyad. "I have spoken with many leaders of the PLO and they share my views."

And Yasser Arafat? "My impression is that he does not belong to the minority in this regard," Zayyad objects to any attempt to offset Palestinian claims for compensation with counter-claims concerning property abandoned by Jews who left Arab countries for Israel. "We, the Palestinians, did not force them to leave those countries. Therefore the issue should be negotiated directly with the Arab countries those refugees came from."

For seven years he published a Hebrew-language newspaper, *Geshet* (Bridge), aimed at presenting Palestinian views to Israelis. More than most Palestinian leaders, he is aware of the Israeli mindset and the sense of existential threat that lurks behind the country's imposing defense establishment.

Israeli Arabists believe that Zayyad's remarks constitute a trial balloon worth noting. "It is a signal from the pragmatic wing of the Palestinians to the Israeli public that the PLO will not cross red lines," says Dr. Irfan Zilberman of the Hebrew University. "It is also part of a process of preparing the Palestinian public, because these sorts of statements are translated back by the Arabic media. I think what he said was important."

University of Haifa

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The rapid growth in student body in recent years — some 11,500 full-time students pursued a degree at the University of Haifa, or one of its branches, in 1993/4, a 40% increase in just three years — necessitated the adoption at last year's Governors' Meeting of a new Master Plan. The first fruits of this plan will be seen in the cornerstone laying of the Social Sciences Faculty Complex (schema above).

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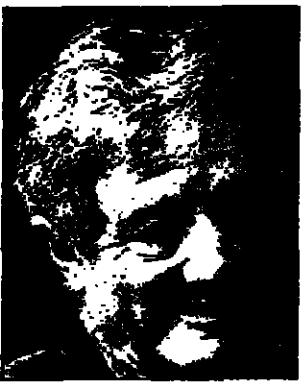
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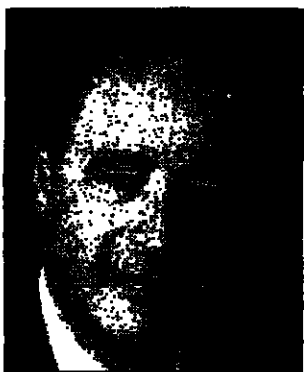
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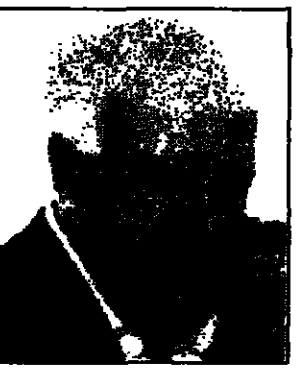
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Young gays break chains of isolation

Homosexual youths here are discovering a way out of loneliness through support groups, Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

WHEN students in Ido's high-school class wanted to deliver the ultimate insult, they would shout what they considered the worst curse imaginable: "You homo!"

When his closest friend threw such a remark his way, it devastated Ido. "I wanted to say to him, 'Yes, I am a homosexual. I love other men, and I will for the rest of my life, and there's nothing I can do about it,'" he recalled recently. Ido distanced himself from his best friend, but never told him why. Instead, he continued living in fear, secrecy and intense isolation, miserable in high school, frightened of what lay ahead of him in the army and harboring thoughts of suicide.

Unlike other gay youngsters, he managed to find a sympathetic school counselor or who helped him begin to cope with his loneliness and fear.

These feelings characterize the lives of most teenagers growing up gay in Israel, says one counselor, and arise from harboring a secret they cannot share with friends, family or teachers.

Ido, now 22, has since learned how common his feelings were. Twice a week he participates in a support group for gay youths, one of three groups that have existed in Tel Aviv for the past eight months.

Though young homosexuals have gathered informally in Tel Aviv and other cities over the past few years, such groups have now been taken under the wing of the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights (SPPR), which serves as the country's gay rights community center and headquarters for activists.

According to the facilitators of the groups, there is already a waiting list for the Tel Aviv groups, and interest has been expressed in setting up similar groups in Haifa, Jerusalem and Eilat.

"The biggest achievement of these support groups is that they have helped people feel less alone," said Hana, the facilitator of one of the groups. (Like Ido and others quoted in this story, she asked that her name be changed.)

"At this age, there's a very strong need for socialization, and a need to know that they are not the only people born this way. And even though they may be aware of homosexual life in other parts of the world, many of them believe that they are the only gays in Israel."

Hana's group consists of 10 young men, aged 18 to 22. There are separate groups for those aged 15 to 17. Some participants have never acted on their feelings; some live with partners.

The most profound worries of gay young people in Israel revolve around relationships with their families, particularly parents, Hana said. "Maybe it's because we have such an intimate Jewish family life," she added.

Ido's parents reacted with "shock and sadness" when he announced at age 17 that he was having relationships with men.

"They took it very hard," he said. "They thought I was going to be their

perfect son. They had waited so long for me. I have four older sisters. Finally, they had a boy, and I turned out not to be such a boy."

In every other respect, his parents couldn't complain. Baby-faced, dark-complexioned Ido is outgoing and intelligent. He was a lieutenant in the army medical corps, is in his third year of medical school and works for an airline. In the army, he was able to confide in his commanding officer. It was his commander, in fact, who pushed him to join the SPPR.

Today, Ido feels lucky that his parents are moving toward acceptance — "though my mother still fantasizes that someday I will meet the right girl who will change my mind" — and his sisters accept him fully and give him support.

Others in his support group are not so lucky. They have faced abuse by homophobic commanders in the army; their parents have become violent, refused to speak to them or thrown them out of their homes.

In religious families, revealing homosexuality is particularly traumatic. One young man in Hana's group was in such despair over his mother's reaction that he attempted suicide.

Hana's role as group facilitator is not to encourage or discourage participants to come out of the closet to their families, she said. "I do make sure they are fully aware of the possible consequences of doing it. After all, you can't go backwards afterwards, and if you do this you have to take it very seriously."

Ron, a gay psychologist who acts as a professional consultant for the facilitators, says he understands some people's fears that participation in such groups might encourage a teenager to turn toward homosexuality. But he believes such fears are unfounded.

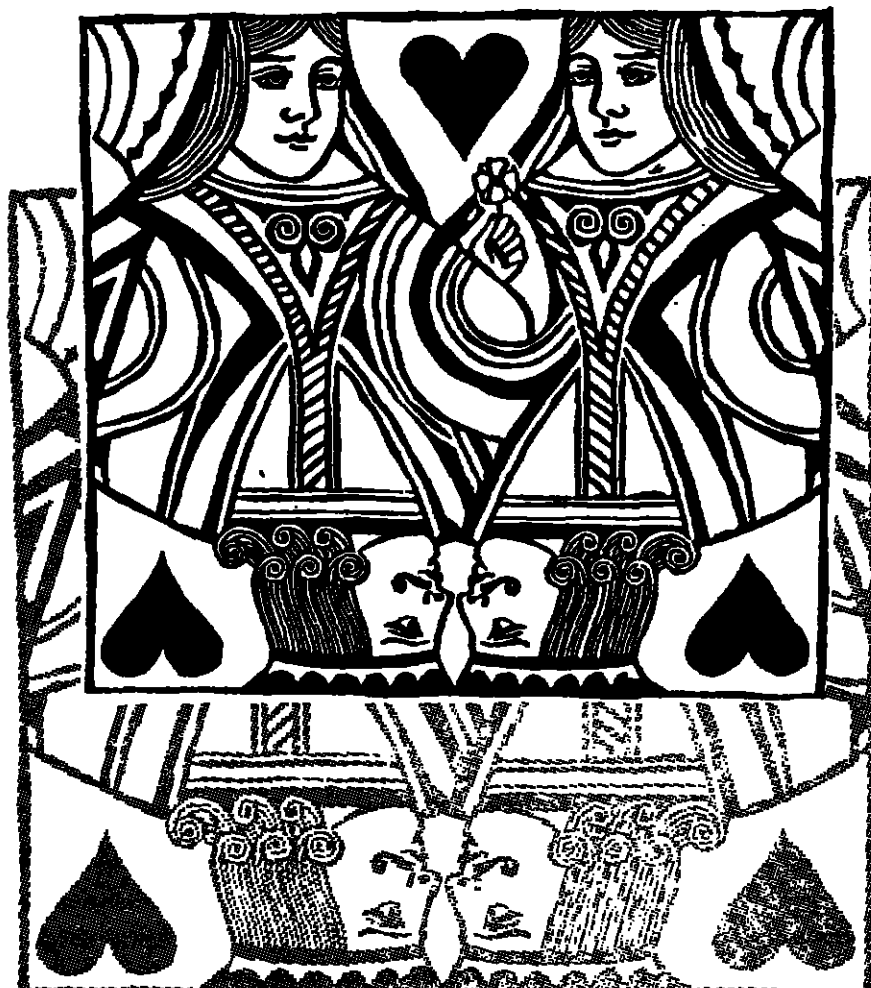
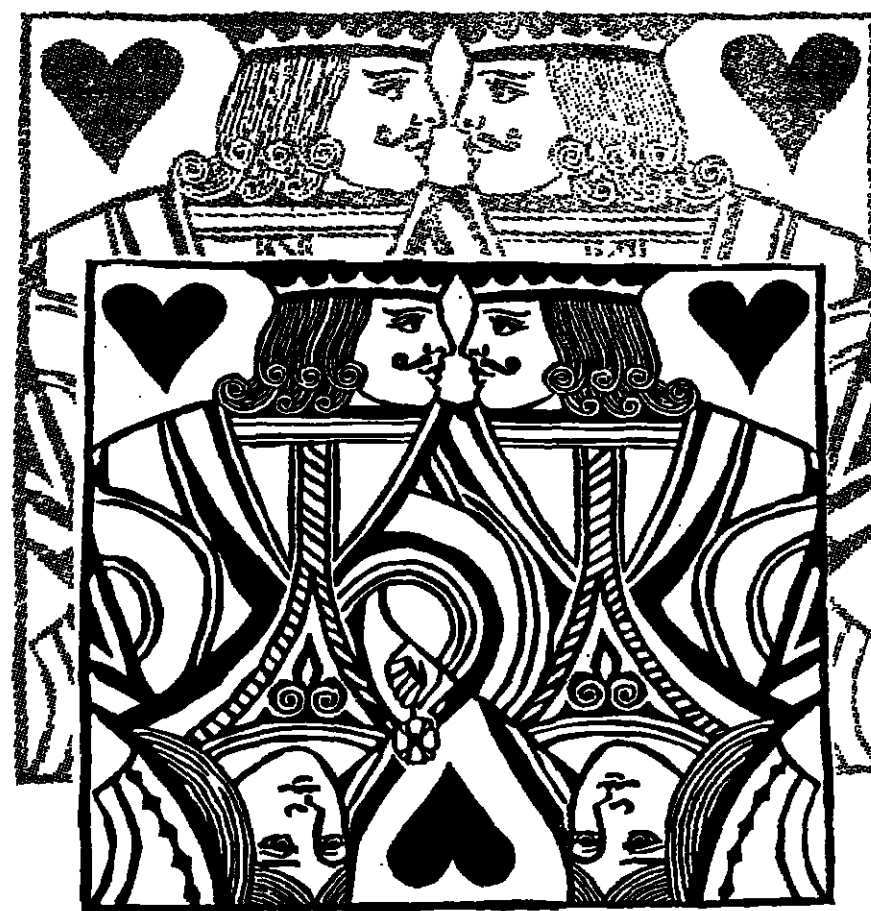
"Our message is that homosexuality is a legitimate expression of one's sexuality. Recruiting gays is not the point of the groups. We are not proselytizing. What we offer is a place for those young people who are wrestling with homosexual, lesbian or bisexual feelings to enjoy an atmosphere of free debate and support for whatever they are doing, so that they come to accept themselves for what they are: straight, gay or anything in between."

"There are so many young people who cannot find support anywhere else, who feel their attraction to members of the same sex is something they cannot discuss with anyone, and truly believe that if their secret comes out their lives will end."

BESIDES DISCUSSING individual problems and offering support, the groups hear guest speakers who address some of their concerns about the future. The guests have included psychologists, AIDS educators, academic experts, and parents of gays and lesbians.

Dvora Luz, the mother of a 32-year-old gay man, has visited the youth groups to offer them advice on breaking the news of their sexual orientation to their families.

"I tell them to be patient, to come out



slowly, not to throw it in their parents' face. Many parents are so completely taken by surprise. The child has gone through a long process of coming to terms with being gay. For the parents, it is a big shock. Many just don't want to cope with it or deal with it. It is touching how the kids in the groups reach out to me. They seem so hungry for affection from somebody who is a mother."

Luz runs support groups for parents of gays of all ages in Tel Aviv and Haifa. She says that the three most predominant emotions are fear that their child will contract AIDS, sadness that their child may never produce grandchildren, and a

feeling of shame and embarrassment over what other family members or what the neighbors will say.

"I went through this myself," Luz said. "I was ashamed. But today I am ashamed that I was ashamed. Now when people ask me what I do in my free time, I tell them right out that my son is homosexual and I counsel other parents of homosexuals. If they have a problem with that, I say the hell with them."

Nava, a school principal in the Haifa region, not only initiated the parents' support group in her area, but is taking an active role in ensuring that students in the greater Haifa area have somewhere to

turn to. Nava first suspected her son was homosexual when he was 15 or 16 and began disappearing for hours at a time and behaved distantly. "What bothered me was when he would go away and not say where he was going; everything was secret. I started to imagine the worst, the terrible things he could be hiding — involvement in a cult or drugs."

She was scared most by his moods, depression and even talk of death. She was so worried that he might try suicide that she would follow him when she saw he was depressed.

She asked him once if he was gay. He denied it. The second time she asked, he said that he was. She had suspected it for so long that the news did not come as a shock. Instead, she felt relief that the wall of secrecy no longer existed.

"I felt like a stone was lifted off of my heart. It was like my son was born again."

Though both are open with friends and family about his homosexuality, Nava asked that her real name not be used for the article because her son, who is now 20, has not "come out" at the army base where he currently serves.

Working inside the education system, Nava was troubled by the fact that many school counselors seemed utterly unprepared if a student came to them with concerns about homosexual orientation.

Working together with Dr. Dalia Lorenz, supervisor for school counselors in the Haifa region, Nava helped organize an unprecedented meeting in March of more than 60 counselors from across the Haifa region. At the meeting, the counselors heard from experts, homosexual youths and their parents.

Lorenz stressed that while it should not be school policy to legitimize or delegitimize homosexual life-styles, the education system is responsible for the well-being of students, and research has shown that troubled young people coping with homosexuality have a high tendency to turn to drugs, alcohol and suicide as a result of their loneliness and feeling of isolation.

"I see it as my job to worry about the well-being of the children, and help them develop their potential. When these children tell me they feel alone, that there is nobody to talk to, nowhere to get information, we need to find ways to help. It is the counselor's job to be on the student's side."

In addition to educating the counselors, Lorenz is ensuring that school libraries are stocked with literature that explains homosexuality and that Haifa teenagers questioning their sexuality have access to the SPPR's hotline numbers.

There is no formal support group for gay teenagers in Haifa, Lorenz explained, because it is illegal for an adult to convene a group of minors except under the auspices of an organization like the municipality or the school system. Allowing the meeting to take place in school, she feels, is a step beyond the school's responsibility. According to Nava, some of the Haifa youths have been in contact with Mayor Amram Mitzna to find an authorized meeting place.

Nava explains her activism on behalf of gay youths as stemming from purely selfish motives: her maternal desire to keep her son near her.

"If I could choose for my son, I would not choose for him to be gay. But I don't want him to leave the country, even if it is easier for him in Los Angeles or Holland. I think that, underneath, this is why I am becoming so active. I'm trying to make it easier for him to stay close to me."

Ido very much wants to stay in Israel, because of his attachment to his parents and his sisters. He worries, however, that he may never find his partner for life here, since the pool of gay men interested in the kind of serious partnership he wants is limited.

Full month of gay pride

THE shouts of the demonstrators who disrupted the memorial service for gay and lesbian victims of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem earlier this week, and the shouting match on ITV's *Popolitika* talk show that evening, sharply illustrated the hostility that gays and lesbians still face here.

Yet homosexuals have made vast progress in recent years in improving their legal status and their visibility in the media. They also encounter greater tolerance by the public. The extent of gay-pride celebrations over the past three years indicates the success that the organized gay community has enjoyed and the growth of its institutions.

From 1989 until 1992, the Israeli lesbian and homosexual community had marked a day of pride each year. Last year, for the first time, there was a successful Gay Pride week, including a very public open-air "happening" in the park on Sheinkin Street in Tel Aviv. This year, the entire month of June has been tagged Gay Pride Month by the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights.

These are some of the community's achievements:

□ In 1992, the law of equality opportunity in the workplace was amended to forbid discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

□ In February 1993, MK Yael Dayan held a conference on homosexuality, bringing 100 gay and lesbians to the Knesset for the session.

□ In June 1993, the Israel Defense Forces made a landmark ruling granting full equality to homosexuals. Not only would their homosexuality not be a basis for barring them from service, but they were also granted permission to serve in units requiring high security clearance.

□ This year, El Al employee Jonathan Danilovich won his District Court case against El Al, claiming that his homosexual partner should receive free airline tickets, just as the spouses of other employees do. The national airline is appealing the decision. The battle for full spousal rights for life partners of homosexuals is still being fought for within universities, the military and other workplaces.

□ In December, the first gay congregation, Ga'avat Yisrael, was formed in Tel Aviv; it holds Shabbat services and a potluck vegetarian dinner once every two weeks at SPPR headquarters.

The current activities, which began on a controversial note at Yad Vashem, include a meeting this week of the World Congress of the Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations in Givat Haviva. The rest of the month has been crisscrossed with cultural events, screenings of films and parties — some all male, some all female, and some mixed.

A "happening" similar to the event in the Sheinkin Street park last year, will be held at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque at the end of the month. In a unique gastronomic tribute, 10 area restaurants have agreed to feature a "pink item" on their menus throughout the month. A.K.A.

Likud may be on the move, but it's still being passed by

ON a recent Saturday night about 1,000 Likud members demonstrated outside the Neveh Avim home of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Among them was Likud Knesset faction chairman Moshe Katsav. A passerby buttonholed him and asked: "Where's the Likud? Why don't we see it here? Why are there no demonstrations?"

Katsav likes to repeat this story to illustrate the state of the Likud. "There I was. There was the Likud. There we were demonstrat-

ing. But despite what was going on right under the man's nose, he complained that we weren't there, that nothing was happening. Yet he didn't join the protest."

Among those close to Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, several reasons are given for this phenomenon, but no one knows the remedy.

At the level of Katsav's passerby, the explanation is essentially psychological. The rank and file, a top Netanyahu aide admits, "are frustrated. They feel sold out by

Sharon, Levy and the left are giving the public reasons to reject Netanyahu, Sarah Honig writes

what they see as capitulation to the PLO, though nothing can be done so long as the government musters thin Knesset majorities. People don't like the idea that their party can do no more under the circumstances, so they direct their anger at the party."

Beyond that, he argues, although "the Likud is Israel's largest party — in terms of dues-payers — it's hard to mobilize members to take part in protests. The Likud may bring in the bulk of the national camp vote, but it's the vote of mostly stay-at-home average citizens. They are unlike the Gush Emunim diehards who take to the

streets and are easily mobilized because they form small cohesive groups around synagogues and settlements, where they are organized and primed for action."

Adding to the disaffection of Katsav's passerby, Netanyahu maintains, is "a group of left-leaning journalists who targeted Netanyahu as public enemy No. 1 the minute he won the Likud leadership last year. They deny Netanyahu coverage and then claim he's inactive. An analysis commissioned by the Likud of the March broadcasts on ITV showed that the ratio between the appearances of the prime minister and of the

head of the opposition was 14:1.

This is hardly how it was when Yitzhak Shamir was premier.

Worse is what the Netanyahu aide calls "assassination by innuendo. Nothing concrete is ever produced except repeated references to Netanyahu's 'failures' and 'declining popularity,' though no one defines the failure."

Asked about it, Netanyahu replies: "The problem lies in the question. If a few columnists keep asking it long enough, they create impressions which are soon taken as given facts."

The story of Dan Meridor is a case in point. For weeks, the papers have been carrying reports of a challenge to Netanyahu by former justice minister Dan Meridor. The one proponent of the idea is MK David Magen.

Meridor has consistently denied the speculation, but to no avail.

"It's unthinkable for the Likud to be kept in a constant strain of competition," Meridor says. "A primary was held, a chairman was elected, and he mustn't be challenged at every turn."

Nearly all Likud pundits agree that Meridor is the least likely to take Netanyahu on. The former minister lacks the temperament and massive popularity to create the upheaval it would take for the party to dump Netanyahu and call him to carry the flag.

Meridor would probably appeal to the same segment of the Likud that backed his good friend Benny Begin in the 1993 primary, but gave him only 15% of the vote, despite the magic name and the biting wit, two attributes Meridor lacks.

Moreover, Meridor's gentlemanly manner wouldn't endear him to Ariel Sharon or David Levy any more than Moshe Arens's professional demeanor did. "They would eat Dan alive, without salt," comments an MK who supported Begin last year.

But Meridor is the Likudnik most loved by the left because of his soft-spoken style and seeming moderation. The Begin supporter explained that, "by boosting him, the left uses Meridor to knock Netanyahu. The left can't boost Sharon because it hates him and it can't promote Levy due to his image problems. So they use poor Dan, who never comes out against Bibi, and Dan can do nothing about it."

The carping comments of Netanyahu's nemesis inside the Likud — Sharon and Levy — continuously delight the media and affect the perceptions of Katsav's passerby. This is what happened re-

cently when Levy rebuffed Netanyahu's peace bid, and last week when Sharon suddenly announced, he would run for prime minister.

Sharon's challenge is distinctly déjà vu. In the past, he prudently withdrew from most showdowns, as he did on the eve of the Likud primary. He has no organized support in the party and no faction. No single MK backs him. The balance of forces inside the Likud makes Sharon unlikely to actually run against Netanyahu.

He also couldn't fail but note that Levy, who does have followers and a faction, won only a quarter of the votes last year and is at a dead end. Levy's one option for changing the situation is to bolt the Likud as former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i did; and he would fare no better.

Netanyahu, in fact, showed both Levy and Sharon the door when he urged Sharon to quit the party. Netanyahu's aide said: "Should either Sharon or Levy cause trouble, Netanyahu is now determined to expel them. It'd be less damaging now than on the eve of elections."

The odds are that both will continue to generate bad press for Netanyahu and fuel the vague discontent of Katsav's passerby. This is just what Sharon did when he threw his hat in the ring. He gave, as his reason "the Likud's inaction and failure to bring out demonstrators. The Likud is not out there in the street."

Later that day, 3,000 Likud demonstrators, led by Netanyahu, filled the street outside the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. Sharon's car was spotted speeding past. He didn't stop to join the protest.

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How Israel makes the Islamic world hate the West

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

NOW that Israel is withdrawing from territories it won in 1967 — something the world media have been preaching for years — reporters seem to be searching for fresh calamities for which Israel can be blamed.

Israel is no longer merely guilty of "oppressing the Palestinians," nor is it just the source of all conflicts in the Middle East. It is the reason the Islamic world hates the West.

And if Islamic fanaticism makes Westerners feel uncomfortably threatened, they should know that the threat exists only because Israel's usurpation of Moslem rights gave birth to it.

A three-part television series produced by Britain's Channel 4, and narrated by *The Independent's* Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk sets out to prove this proposition.

Called *Beirut to Bosnia*, the series was recently shown in the US on the Discovery channel. It is being screened globally.

The tone is set by TV personality John Palmer's introduction: "October 23, 1983, a truck loaded with more than 600 pounds of explosives crashes into the US Marine barracks in Beirut. Two hundred and forty-one Americans are killed... Americans quickly learn

that a group of Lebanese Moslems claimed responsibility for the attack.

"But no doubt few of us heard of the slaughter of hundreds of Palestinians by a Lebanese Christian militia supported by Israel and the United States..."

"The US also supported the Balfour Declaration, which led to the creation of the State of Israel out of Palestinian land in 1948. The Jewish claim to the land resulted in the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes."

"Angry, threatened and inspired by the zeal of Islamic fundamentalism, Moslem extremists are striking back at the West. What is it in the Islamic faith that motivates young men to kill and be killed in the name of Allah?"

"For an answer and to find out why fundamentalist Moslems feel the West has betrayed them, we will go where few Westerners have gone, inside the Moslem world, from Beirut to Bosnia."

Fisk then takes over with a description of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon accompanied by the usual hair-raising pictures.

"During those hot, frightening months I watched Moslems die in near thousands, killed by the Israelis by weaponry for the most part made in America."

"And if Israel was their enemy, was it so surprising that so many Moslems came to regard America as their enemy too? We watched them die in the hospitals, burned, crushed."

"We even saw babies who had been killed by Israeli phosphorous shells... In the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila, Israel's allies slaughtered hundreds of Palestinians while the Israelis watched."

There is never a mention of the reasons for the war, nor of the PLO. The viewer is led to believe that the Israelis simply felt one day like invading a peaceful country for the sole purpose of ravaging the land, occupying it and killing its people.

Israel is "colonizing our country," as one Lebanese puts it on screen.

FISK WORRIES about the residue of resentment in the West for the Moslem hostage-takers in Beirut ("an especially dark side of militant Islam," as Fisk puts it).

But he has a ready explanation to put their minds at ease: "Britons and Americans spent years in prisons like this," says

Fisk as the camera shows a prison. "We publicized their plight, but we largely ignored the suffering of 17,000 Lebanese who were also kidnapped, almost all of whom were murdered by their captors. Several Lebanese were murdered in this very prison."

Even the most sophisticated viewer could hardly be blamed for surmising from Fisk's recitation that it was the Israelis — not the Syrians, Lebanese and Palestinians — who kidnapped 17,000 Lebanese and tortured them to death.

Fisk allows that at least two hostages — his close friend American journalist Terry Anderson and British colleague John McCarthy — were "truly innocent."

(This recalls a remark by a French politician following a Paris bombing by Islamic terrorists: "The bomb killed not only Jews but some innocent people, too.")

But, as a Lebanese who tried to assassinate the shah's last prime minister explains on screen, next to the suffering of the Moslems in the hands of Israel, the incarceration of hostages is a minor discomfort.

Conveniently, Fisk avoids refer-

ring to hostages who died in prison, or to the six journalists who were murdered by the Syrians, or to the over 100,000 people killed by Syrians, the PLO, and Christian and Moslem militias in Lebanon.

And to provide the ultimate rationalization for hostage-taking, Fisk shows pictures of Khiam prison which, he says, "give no idea of the conditions inside."

He describes it not as a prison used by the South Lebanon Army but a jail where 300 Shi'ites, only "some of whom are captured guerrillas," are held by "Israel's militia allies."

Asserting that, according to Amnesty International, torture there is routine, he has a man describe electric-volt torture.

And he gets a Red Cross man to decry the prisoners' inability to receive visits from the International Red Cross.

At this point Fisk's purpose becomes clear: "It sounds... as if these people, in a way, are hostages... We used to hear an awful lot about Western hostages; why no fuss from anyone about these people?"

The conclusion is again inevitable. Those Hizbullah fanatics may seem bad, but all they are doing is imitating Israel's allies, who also hold "hostages."

AT THE end of the first part of the series, host John Palmer concludes: "The peace accord returns limited self-rule to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. But... the Hizbullah and other extremist Moslem organizations pledge to keep on fighting until Israel withdraws from all historic Palestinian lands and South Lebanon."

One begins to wonder if the constant repetition of these fallacies has actually made journalists believe what they are saying.

Do Palmer and Fisk really think that Palestinians once had "self-rule," or any other kind of rule, which is now being returned to them?

Do they really believe there is such a thing as "historic Palestinian lands"?

The second and third parts are, if anything, more insidious. Fisk visits a Holocaust survivor in Acre who lives in what Fisk claims used to be the home of a Palestinian friend now living in Lebanon.

He juxtaposes the story of the Arab who was "forced" to leave his home by the Israelis with the story of the Acre Jew who was

forced out of his Polish village by the Nazis.

The implication is all too clear. The Jews might have been victims of the Nazis, but now they are doing to the Palestinian Arabs what the Nazis did to them.

The story of the Holocaust survivor also provides some spurious even-handedness. Not only Arab suffering is mentioned, but Jewish suffering, too.

But except for a one-minute conversation with a couple of settlers who talk of Israel's God-given right to be on this land (oh, how the media love fanatic-sounding Jews!), this two-hour-long series has not one word representing the Israeli view.

This omission is perhaps the most startling aspect of this "documentary."

Not the slightest effort is made to appear journalistically honest. It is a straight, unabashed propaganda film, recalling some of the crudest Nazi and Soviet efforts.

That it should be produced by one of the most respected British television companies, and screened on one of America's most prestigious channels, is a commentary not so much on the state of anti-Jewish sentiment in the world as on the standards of what passes for television journalism.

Of ball bearings and baloney

VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

YITZHAK RABIN continues to talk what he has called *babla*, a slanderous babble, about many citizens of the Jewish state whose government he heads and for whose security he is ministerially responsible. These include IDF soldiers whose supreme commander he is.

And regarding those Jews he is indeed, as he called himself, a *Kugellager*.

Rabin used those and other colloquialisms of Hebrew, Yiddish, German and Arabic origin during a briefing he and several unnamed security officials gave to newspaper editors and political and military correspondents on May 25, and during a news conference immediately afterwards.

Some of those terms originated in the pre-state Palmah underground in which he was a leading figure.

Kugellager is German for "ball bearing," in which the rotating shaft or axle of skates, for example, turns freely on loose hardened steel balls that roll easily on the race. (Webster's *New Collegiate Dictionary*.)

Babla is a vulgarism that is in a way related to *Kugellager*. It is an acronym of two Hebrew slang terms: "*bilbul betzim lelo ta'an*," in which the last letter of the acronym is a *ter*, "*bilbul betzim lelo tachila*," the last letter being a *tav*. Both mean, literally, "pointless scrambling of eggshells," and figuratively, "pointless chatter, baloney"; what in Yiddish is called "*haken ah tcha ink*," "bang on an empty tea kettle."

In English slang testicles are "balls," and we have "balled up." Robert L. Chapman, in his *The Dictionary of American Slang* (London, 1980), says this describes a "thoroughly confused and futile condition; erroneous and useless because of perverse incompetence."

He says the term's origin is uncertain, speculating that it may be "as euphemistically explained, from the helplessness of a horse on a slippery street when its shoes have accumulated balls of ice."

He adds: "Somewhat the term has come to be associated with the testicles," and he lists a few synonyms: "bollixed, screwed up." It's possible, however, that "*babla*" and "balled up" originally have nothing to do with the testicles, but literally with eggs.

It may also be that the concept originates in ancient Eretz Yisrael.

In a discussion recorded in the Jerusalem Talmud (*Sanhedrin 17:5* and *Berachot 9:2*), Rabbi Yossi, wishing to point out that

there is confusion over a certain matter, uses the term "*piputay betzim*." According to Marcus Jastrow, the lexicographer of the Talmud, this means literally "crumbs or fragments of eggs," or "smashed eggs," and figuratively, "confusion."

(The word *piputay* here is spelled with two letters *tav*. It has a homonym, spelled with two letters *tet*, meaning "jabber, chatter.")

AS FOR ball bearings: Summarizing the history of the Jewish village Netzarim in the Gaza District, Rabin said: "If Netzarim is a settlement, I'm a *Kugellager*." (This and the following are my translation of excerpts from what Yediot Aharonot (May 22) said was the full text of Rabin's remarks.)

On May 23, 70 residents of the village, about half its population, demonstrated opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem with some of their output: crates of tomatoes and chickens.

Our ball-bearing prime minister went on to make remarks about his Jewish constituents that suggest he is not a mere skater, but a rough-riding skateboarder.

For example, in referring to the controversy over the remains of Jericho's seventh-century Shalom al Yisrael synagogue, where a yeshiva has been functioning since last autumn, Rabin again made an issue of the fact that previously in modern times the place was not an active synagogue.

As he put it: "Before the signing of the Declaration of Principles there was nothing there, no synagogue and no *bath*... Okay, maybe yes *bath*."

Suddenly they remembered the synagogue. Good thing they didn't remember the [sixth-century] synagogue in Gaza."

"*Bath*" is Arabic for the Hebrew *avaiyah*, "watermelon." In Arab and Sabra slang it means "nothing, baloney."

Sometimes the expression is "*bath asfar*," "yellow watermelon," a fruit that till very recently was not known to exist. Another Arabic expression is "*Bala bath bala ishi*," "No watermelon, no nothing."

(An equivalent Hebrew comment on a tall story or verbal baloney is "*Lo doobim velo ya'ar*," "No bears [attacked] and [there was] no forest [for them to come out of]. A Yiddish equivalent:

"*Nisht geshloigen oon nisht gefloigen*." "No [eagle] took off and soared away [carrying him in its talons].")

"*BABLA*" IS how Rabin characterized PLO godfather Yasser Arafat's declaration annulling all Israeli laws pertaining to Judea/Samaria/Gaza District.

Vicious *babla* were some of Rabin's remarks about constituents of his (or does he regard them as subjects?).

He justified the killing of our soldiers by Arab terrorists, saying: "Following the murder — actually, not murder: soldiers at their posts aren't 'murdered' — following the killing of the two soldiers at the Erez checkpoint [on May 20]..."

He also said: "Our soldiers are paying the price for the principle of not moving [Jewish] settlements [from Judea/Samaria/Gaza District]... I have more than once heard the demagoguery about us paying the price of peace in blood. I don't accept that. We're paying in blood the price of the desire to continue ruling over the territories."

We're paying in blood also at the Lebanese border, and there's no territorial problem there. A people that isn't prepared to pay in blood for things it believes in will lose everything... There has been an erosion in our intestinal fortitude...

This contains some anti-Jewish *babla* and slanderous demagoguery, but also some truth.

The newspapers and history books tell us that what our soldiers and civilians are paying, and have been paying for the past century, is the price for the Arab principle of not brooking a Jewish sovereign presence in what they regard as "the Arab world."

They murdered Jews (and Arabs cooperating with us) before the Declaration of Principles, before our 1967 "occupation," before 1948, even before the Balfour Declaration.

And I challenge Rabin to name the Jews — beyond that well-known handful — who are moved by a sheer "desire to continue ruling over the territories" rather than by historical and present-day facts.

As for the erosion of our "intestinal fortitude" — our leaders and opinionmakers will benefit themselves and the nation by looking into their responsibility for that and acting upon their findings. I refer to both our governmental and opposition leaders of the past 17 years.

But you won't find much of that erosion among "the settlers."

SRULIK



by DOSH

When the leaders are to blame

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

"And if you have erred, and not observed all these commandments... by ignorance, without the knowledge of the congregation, all the congregation shall offer one young bullock for a burnt offering... and it shall be forgiven them."

(Num 15:22-25)

UNTIL the middle of the 18th century, the overwhelming majority of those who called themselves Jews were totally committed to the tradition of our Written and Oral Torah, observing the Sabbath and Festivals, praying regularly, studying our sacred texts.

Then came the Emancipation (*haskala*), and everything changed. Today the majority of Jews call themselves secular, and are estranged from our heritage.

How do we look at such Jews? On whom do we place the blame for this alienation?

A trenchant commentary of the Ramban (Nahmanides) provides a fascinating perspective, suggesting that this week's portion deals with these questions.

As the portion opens, God commands Moses to gather 12 tribal leaders to scout the land which the Israelites are about to inherit. But their subsequent report turns the nation's dream into a nightmare.

Despite the miracles wrought against the Egyptians, the Divine emanation from Sinai, and the manna from heaven, the people remain frightened, feeling themselves to be weak in comparison to the inhabitants of Canaan.

Obviously, the dust of exile still

clings to their souls. Forty years were simply not enough to make the journey from exile to freedom. The timid generation will die out before ever setting foot in the Land, not so much as a punishment, but as the ultimate reflection of their own fears.

It will take far longer to get Egypt out of the Jews than it did to take the Jews out of Egypt!

In the midst of all this, the Torah records a commandment which seems out of place: the requirement to separate the "first portion of your kneading" as an offering to the priests "when you come into your land..." (Numbers 15:20)

But on further reflection, this law has great significance. Appearing after the debacle of the 12 spies, it captures the essence of what the Jewish people will be lacking as a result of remaining in the desert.

There is nothing in civilized life more basic than bread; now that a whole generation of males won't be entering the Land, they will never know how sweet and good bread can taste when one produces one's own from one's own Land. This lack of faith and commitment dooms them to continue as a spiritual welfare state, a "manna-receiving" society.

But the following passage seems even more out of context: "And if you have erred, and not observed all these commandments... by ignorance, without the knowledge

of the congregation, all the congregation shall offer one young bullock for a burnt offering... and it shall be forgiven them." (Num. 15:22-25)

Why are sacrificial details, perhaps more suitable to the Book of Leviticus, placed here in the Book of Numbers? Commentators are also bewildered by the phrase, "all these commandments." Is it possible for an entire nation to violate all of the Torah's commandments?

Nahmanides provides a masterful interpretation which, when slightly expanded upon, explains the placement of the following passage as well. The Jews, upset that they cannot capture Israel, complain; they even speak of appointing a new leader to take them back into slavery!

We have to understand the implications of the desire to return to a pre-Sinaitic moment in history. "Back to Egypt" means no Ten Commandments, no obligation to Torah, and a fall back through the 49 gates of impurity.

Clearly, such a desire is tantamount to a violation of the entire Torah.

But this time, explains Nahmanides, the Israelites were not at fault, or at least cannot be considered premeditated sinners. The 10 "princes" of the tribes, the leaders of the people, have recommended an end to the dream of a Promised Land. Is it any wonder that the people are devastated?

What these 10 leaders were say-

ing was no to Moses, no to Sinai, and no to God. Thus we see why the nation can be forgiven even if it violates "all the commandments" out of ignorance; when the masses follow their leaders and sin as a result, they cannot be held responsible for their actions.

We are now living in a generation in which millions of Jews are indeed violating "all the commandments," or at least most of them.

Yet these people are not sinners; they are, explains Maimonides (in effect agreeing with Nahmanides), like infants captured by heathens, innocents who never received a proper Jewish education. They must be restored to our faith with love — and certainly not be condemned. (Laws of Mamrim, 3:8)

The rank and file require, and deserve, inspired leadership, characterized neither by political expertise nor financial success, but rather by faith and commitment.

Potential leaders of this type must be found and nurtured. A great hassidic rebbe, upon seeing a train for the first time, declared with wonder: "How true-to-life is this invention! One fiery engine can drag along hundreds of people!"

We must produce fiery engines, with passion, commitment and sensitivity. Only then can we hope to bring along the majority of Jews.

This week's Torah portion teaches us that it is not the disaffected who must bear responsibility for their disaffection; it is, rather, their religious leadership which is on the line. *Shabbat Shalom*

What IDF uniform means in Tel Aviv — and Hebron

ON THE BORDER

JEFF GREEN

MY son, who has been in the army for a couple of months, looks very handsome in his uniform, making me proud of both him and the country. While no institution designed to kill people as effectively as possible can be good in a deep moral sense, the IDF is said to be an excellent army, as armies go, — and this has to be a source of pride to a Zionist.

After centuries of living at the mercy of people more powerful than ourselves, we Jews finally have an effective instrument of self-defense, an achievement even a peacenik like me can appreciate. As a parent, I'm also proud that my son is doing something difficult and demanding in the service of his country, just as I was proud of his older sister when she served in the army.

Despite the tenor of rightist propaganda, with its demagogic use of the term "the people," or "the national camp," those Israelis who believe in making concessions in order to achieve peace still

belong to "the people." We too have a part in patriotism and Zionism.

I was proud the first time I put on an IDF uniform, and no matter how burdensome reserve duty became, no matter how distasteful some of the things I was called upon to do, I never lost the feeling of pride I got from serving in the Israeli army.

The IDF uniform is a kind of border separating those who wear it (or have worn it) from those who don't. When Jewish residents of Abu Tor see my son on his way up from the bus stop on Friday afternoon, lugging a duffel bag full of sweat-soaked clothes, his weapon slung over his shoulder, they share our pride. If Arab residents of Abu Tor see him, they regard his uniform and gun as threatening, certainly not as a source of pride.

Two personal memories help me imagine how my Arab neighbors view my son. One spring evening in the States in the late 1960s, my wife and I went to a movie in Harvard Square. While we were watching the film, there was a riot outside. When we emerged from the theater, we found ourselves cut off from our car by a phalanx

of angry police officers. It was frightening to approach them and ask meekly for permission to cross Massachusetts Avenue.

That summer, we went to Paris. On our way back to our hotel one evening, we encountered a contingent of French riot police armed with submachine guns, draped in lead-weighted capes and waiting for trouble — essentially, for people our age.

Though, unlike Palestinians facing uniformed Israelis, we had the protection of our American passports, it was still unnerving to walk by these men in uniform. How did we know they wouldn't decide we were threats to French security and public order? What could we have done if they had arrested us just for being there?

SPOKESMEN for the right often argue that if the Israeli presence in Hebron is not legitimate, we cannot justify our presence in Tel Aviv either. The image of our sons in their IDF uniforms shows what a silly argument this is.

That uniform doesn't mean the same thing in both places. In Hebron (not to mention Jenin, Tul-karm, Nablus, and Ramallah) it stands for oppression and attracts

barrages of stones, petrol bombs and gunfire. In Tel Aviv, it stands for national self-fulfillment and entitles the wearer to benevolent respect and a discount on fefelaf.

In the State of Israel, a strong Jewish majority feels at home. In the occupied territories, a beleaguered Jewish minority claims to feel at home, but their lives are often in danger, and they certainly feel no kinship with the majority of the inhabitants.

The only way to resolve our conflict with the Palestinians is to talk about human beings and human rights, about the people who currently live here, rather than talking about "The Land."

It is absurd for Jews to claim that the Arab cities of the West Bank are an integral part of our modern homeland, no matter how deeply connected they once were with ancient Jewish history — just as it is absurd for Palestinians to imagine that the Jews who now live on the sites of their towns and villages will evaporate. They can no more make us disappear than we can do away with them.


Zionist pride in the IDF uniform is a mark of political realism. Realistically speaking, the validation of our historic claim to the

Land of Israel is the success of Zionism in building up the country, bringing in Jews to settle it, and successfully defending our achievements.

Continuing in a realistic vein, the fact that far more Israelis have moved to Los Angeles and New York than to the West Bank, despite some 20 years of government policies encouraging settlement in the occupied territories, is clearly a forfeiture of our claim on that area.

Not only did the citizens of Israel vote to replace the Likud government; even before then, except for a very small minority (roughly 3 percent), they voted with their feet, throughout the occupation. They voted not to live in the territories. Despite extremist rhetoric, "the people" (both Israelis and Palestinians) understand the difference between Hebron and Tel Aviv.

Most of us will be relieved when those who proudly wear the uniform of the IDF once again stand ready to defend Israel against external enemies rather than patrol the streets of Arab towns, where they represent an occupying power, dodging stones and shooting teenage rioters.



The Jewish Agency

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Buyout bid puts vacationing moguls on edge

A British couple are waiting nervously in the wings for their encore in retailing, Allison Kaplan Sommer writes

VERA and Gerald Weisfeld have some advice for tourists. Don't bother coming to Israel when you are in the midst of a tense bidding war for a company worth millions in the United Kingdom - you won't see much of the country.

The couple were visiting last week from Glasgow, hoping to sightsee and celebrate their endowment of a chair at Tel Aviv University.

But they spent most of their time glued to the telephone and the fax machine in their hotel suite, waiting to hear last-minute developments in their struggle to purchase a wounded giant of a retailing chain in England.

Even dressed up, about to leave for an elegant evening on the town, they seemed on edge as they sat in their suite overlooking the Mediterranean.

Vera, blonde, blue-eyed and well turned out, was able, at least, to stay on the sofa, but Gerald jumped up every five minutes to head for the telephone.

Little wonder they were on edge. The couple's bid to bail out the ailing Poundstretcher chain of British discount stores had taken them for a roller-coaster ride over the past several months.

They knew that if they became Poundstretcher's rescuers, it would mark a dramatic return to the world of British retail after a four-year hiatus.

"When we sold out [our discount retail chain], we didn't sell our brains," Vera said. "We have 30 years of retailing experience. This opportunity fit our talents like a glove."

More than 20 years ago they

opened a small discount store at the seedier end of Glasgow's main thoroughfare and built it into a chain of successful discount outlets called What Everyone Wants.

After the company grew to the point that it had 1,800 employees, and over half a million square feet of selling space, the Weisfelds sold it for a whopping £50 million. The sale catapulted them into the ranks of the United Kingdom's rich and famous.

Since that sale four years ago, the Weisfelds have spent most of their time managing and enjoying their wealth.

But apparently the chance of an encore performance in the retail world was enough to tempt them away from their life of leisure.

Poundstretcher seemed to be the perfect opportunity. The chain, owned by the Brown and Jackson company, currently employs more than 4,000 workers and operates 230 stores in the UK.

But it is in dire straits. For the past three years, the company has shown steady losses, and suppliers are threatening to withhold goods until they have been paid.

In the first quarter, the company showed losses of between £6m. and £9m., with sales plummeting 10% and share prices dropping accordingly.

As late as mid-April it seemed certain that the Weisfelds would be the white knights who would save Poundstretcher.

The company's board fully supported the Weisfelds' offer to inject £6m. into the company, which would give them a 19% stake, with an option to later increase their holding to 41%.

They would then step in as con-



Gerald and Vera Weisfeld: They gave up their discount chain for a life of leisure and now are coming full circle. (Harroch Gutman)

sultants to the company, using the expertise that made What Everyone Wants a success to turn the stores around.

Everything was going along smoothly until the first week of May, just before the shareholders were to approve the Weisfelds' offer.

Suddenly, they were trumped by Pepkor, the largest retailer in South Africa, which promised an initial investment more than three times that of the Weisfelds - and an eventual offer of £56.2m for a 63% stake in the company.

To the shock and dismay of the Weisfelds, the Brown and Jackson board quickly switched allegiances and supported the Pepkor offer.

But the Weisfelds are not going down without a fight. They have

been battling to convince the board to honor what they consider was a commitment to their original offer.

The British business press seems amused by the struggle. "The sight of two wealthy investors scrapping over the right to rescue one of the lamest ducks in the retailing world is enough to make any investor throw his ideas about fundamental value out of the window," wrote the *Times* of London.

The Weisfelds argued that their expertise in discount marketing was just as valuable as the money that Pepkor would bring in.

"We were the only ones bidding on this company when it was in real trouble," Gerald said.

"We have always felt that it's

not just money at stake."

THE COUPLE - he is 54 and she is 55 - became a team relatively late in life. Gerald grew up in London's East End, left school early, and worked in the family retailing business since he was 15.

He married, fathered three children, divorced and eventually moved to make his home in Scotland. He met Vera when she took a job in the shop. She had also worked her entire adult life in retail and was divorced with two children after being married for 11 years.

For a full six years of working together, there was no romance between them. Then suddenly, it bloomed.

The two clearly complement

each other.

"Mr. Weisfeld is the property man," Vera said. "He finds the right property at the right price. And he is a top-class buyer; he was raised in the business and knows about merchandise."

Gerald chimed in: "Mrs. Weisfeld opens the stores, trains the staff; essentially what she does is really create an internal school for retailing."

The couple, who began life modestly, clearly enjoy their current lifestyle.

The public doesn't exactly need to shed tears for them if their bid is ultimately rejected, Vera said.

"They can say, 'Those poor Weisfelds, now they are going to be stuck in that house in the south of France,'" she laughed.

Popular debut: New genes for an old fruit

After investing \$25 million, a California company says it has created the perfect tomato, Donna Walters reports

VIRGINIA Waters bought some to take back to Massachusetts. Bill Johnson got some to mail to his mother in Florida.

And Connie Presley was taking some home to make sandwiches for the kids' lunch.

At the State Market grocery store in Davis, California, recently, America's newest and most controversial tomatoes were selling faster than you can say "marinara sauce" as buyers came from all over to be among the first to taste and buy genetically engineered fruit.

An old-fashioned produce cart was installed at the neighborhood market and people gathered round to sample bites and offer critiques of the MacGregor's tomatoes. Handing out the free samples were employees of Calgene, this university town's biotechnology company, which recently got approval from the Food and Drug Administration to market them.

Many shoppers, aware of history in the making, brought along their cameras and photographed the plump red tomatoes and the beaming owners of the grocery store - one of only two places in America you can obtain the tomatoes. (The other was the Carrot Top market in the Chicago suburb of Northbrook, Ill.)

"These are wonderful," said Waters, in town visiting relatives. "They are not at all like the tasteless, horrible, hard things we get in Massachusetts."

If Calgene is right about the tomatoes, grown from its genetically engineered "Flavr Savr" seeds, Waters and Johnson needn't worry whether they will still taste good after being shipped across country. Calgene isolated the gene that initiates the tomato's rotting process, cloned the gene and reinserted it, in reverse, to neutralize, or slow down, the rotting process.

The tomatoes can be kept on the vine longer, developing the sweetness that most commercially grown tomatoes lack because they are picked green and ripened artificially. It took the company more than \$25 million dollars to develop the tomato, and five years to get FDA approval to market it.

At the State Market they go for \$1.99 a pound. Regular vine-ripened tomatoes cost \$1.19.

Calgene officials said they wanted to introduce the tomato in just such a place as the State Market, where family members have been running the store in this town that is home to the University of California, Davis, for more than 50 years. (Los Angeles Times)

Dutch fund bullish on psychological investment

ONE of the world's largest investment funds says it is having considerable success with a psychological approach to equity portfolio management.

Mumbo jumbo?

Robeco Groep NV, which with 69 billion guilders (\$37 billion) under management is a powerful investment voice, claims its experimental portfolios based on theories of "behavioral finance" outperformed markets by 17 percent in 1992 and 1993.

Now it has sponsored its own professor to help it develop a system of second-guessing market moves.

"We are seeing a complete change in the paradigms of investment science," Robeco's investment strategist Jacob van Duijn told a recent news conference.

"We are moving more and more away from the idea of the investor as a 'homo economicus' who makes only rational decisions towards the view that psychology plays an important role in the behavior of investors."

He was introducing Werner de Bondt, Belgian professor of investment management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, whom Robeco is sponsoring for a four-month guest professorship at Rotterdam's Erasmus University.

De Bondt claims that positions taken in line with his criteria outperform the market by an average 8 percent annually over five years.

"People make predictable mistakes and that can be exploited," said De Bondt. "They think good companies are good investments and bad companies are bad invest-

Robeco Groep NV claims its experimental portfolios based on behavioral science outperformed markets, Sara Henley reports

ments. That leads to an overreaction. These strategies try to exploit overreactions."

Robeco has introduced five or six country-based portfolios which it calls "mean-reverting," "serial correlation" or "overreaction" products, worth about 100 million guilders (\$54 million) of its total 20 billion (\$11 billion) equity portfolio.

These contain a mix of stocks

perceived to be "star performers" or "clear losers" - Robeco buys the losers and sells the winners.

Robeco is trying to make a profitable system from the idea that, like the majority of car-drivers, most of those making a living on financial markets believe they are above average - but in fact they just follow the herd.

Investors, both private individuals and jobbing traders, tend to

make naive forecasts which are rooted in the present situation, and are susceptible to fads, De Bondt says.

For instance, most people go for "glamor stocks" or traditional "defensive" plays even though current price-value criteria may not support this, he said.

He quotes a comment by Keynes: "Worldly wisdom teaches that it is better for reputation to fail conventionally than to succeed unconventionally."

"No fund manager ever got fired for adding IBM to the portfolio," he said. "It was the consensus choice - but they lost a lot of money."

De Bondt claims his system works for a cross-section of stocks over periods of at least 12 months. Even if one of the losers in the


portfolio goes bankrupt, it does not tarnish overall performance.

Van Duijn said the psychological products are hard to sell to fund managers with prudent performance targets and do not yet suit the average private client.

"It's a niche product," said Van Duijn. "You have to have customers who understand - they must accept that they mustn't think about the components and certainly shouldn't try and hedge their exposure."

Van Duijn said the portfolios - in which Dutch and overseas institutional investors tend to risk a (for them) modest 10 million to 30m. guilders (\$5.4m. to \$16.1m.) a shot - went long on Hoogovens at 20 guilders (\$10.78) last year. The shares now trade at about 70 guilders (\$37.72). (Reuters)

COMINSTOCK



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INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: All CommStock Financial Advisors
FROM: David Zwebnier, President
RE: Investment Strategies

With the continuing upturn of the U.S. economy, it appears that inflation will be increasing in the United States with interest rates following suit. Furthermore, last year's floods affected various crops which, in turn, apply upward pressure on commodity prices, again fueling inflation.

We strongly recommend investing in commodity futures funds which stand to benefit handsomely in the coming months. Specifically, I would suggest the MeesPierson Derivatives Futures Fund, which has limited risk, an excellent reputation and is backed by one of Europe's largest banks.


Higher interest rates will have a dampening effect on the U.S. stock market. We therefore recommend you emphasize to your customers the importance of shifting some of their assets into guaranteed stock market performance funds, like the Midland Offshore Guaranteed Bond.

Please keep me posted as to customer response.

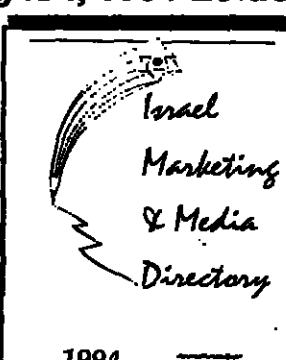
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Royal welcome for a 'king' without the red carpet

The Satmar Rebbe's followers have prepared a fleet of cars and 100,000 cans of Pepsi for his visit next week, Herb Keinon reports

WHEN Satmar Rebbe Moshe Teitelbaum arrives here on Tuesday for his first visit in 11 years, tens of thousands of hassidim will be rolling out a red-carpet welcome. Well, almost.

"A red carpet is a *goyish* custom," says Yehuda Meshi-Zehav, an Eda Haredit activist responsible for the logistics of the two-week trip. "We'll have everything but the red carpet."

Even without the red carpet, this will be the biggest welcome in Jerusalem since King David moved his capital here from Hebron, Meshi-Zehav says. "The last time the Satmar Rebbe was here, there were 100,000 people in Shabbat Square, Mea She'arim, to greet him. This time there will be more. You tell me the last time someone here received that big a welcome."

Walls in the haredi sections of the capital were plastered this week with black-on-white posters trumpeting the arrival of Teitelbaum, known for his fervently anti-Zionist, anti-state ideology. The wall posters call this a "royal voyage" and urge the faithful to come out en masse to greet "your king."

Indeed, as president of the Eda Haredit — a loose formation of all those haredim who neither vote in Knesset elections nor take money from the state — Teitelbaum is the "king" of the anti-Zionist line. He is the spiritual leader for those haredim who see the establishment of the state as an act of her-

esy, a historical aberration that is delaying God's redemption of the Jewish people.

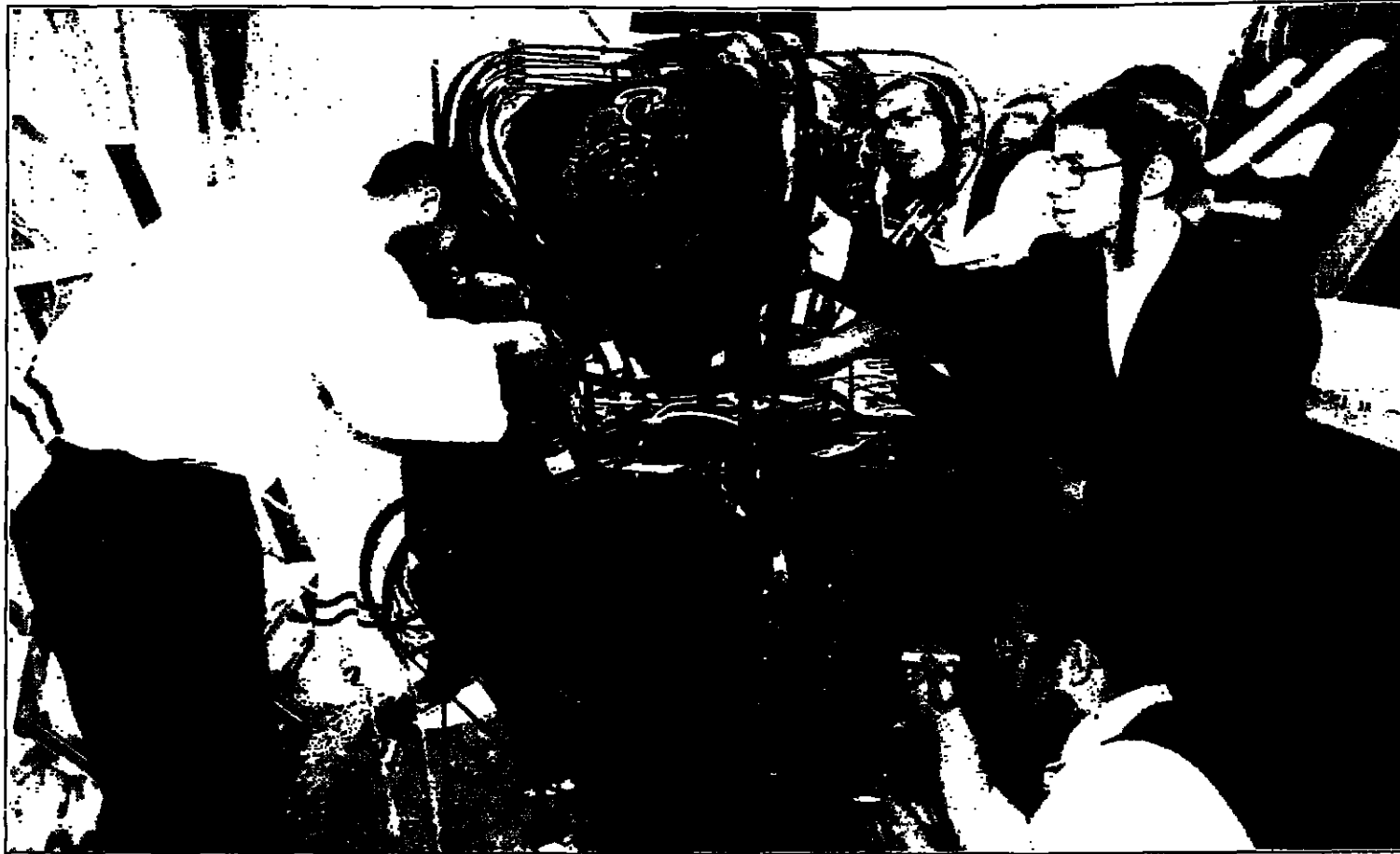
According to Dr. Yitzhak Alfasi, a researcher on hassidism and author of an encyclopedia on the subject, the influence and strength of the Eda Haredit has grown substantially since Teitelbaum's last visit in 1983. The Satmar Hassidim, along with the Toldot Aharon and Yerushalmi Hassidim, make up the majority of the Eda. With tens of thousands of followers, Satmar — according to Alfasi — is today the third largest hassidic dynasty.

It is also among the wealthiest. When Teitelbaum came here in 1983 he brought \$3 million to distribute to various institutions and individuals. This time, Meshi-Zehav says, he will be bringing about \$5 million.

The 14-day trip, with all its "royal" trappings, is costing \$500,000. The tab is being picked up by one New York Satmar Hassid who, for his money, will get the honor of chauffeuring the rebbe's limousine from Ben-Gurion Airport to Jerusalem.

The half-million dollar price tag includes five chartered Tower Air planes (El Al was not considered as a possible carrier because it is the national airline), three limousines, a fleet of 120 rental cars, 220 beepers, 310 walkie-talkies, 120 cellular phones and 100,000 cans of Pepsi.

(That Pepsi is the official soft drink of the rebbe's visit is a surprising turn of events. Last year



Anticipating their leader's arrival, Satmar Hassidim in Jerusalem this week construct huge decorations.

(Ariel Jermolinski)

Pepsi lost the prestigious kashrut certificate of the Badatz, the Eda's rabbinical court also responsible for kashrut supervision, largely because of an advertisement campaign charting man's evolution from ape to Pepsi drinker that ran contrary to the Badatz's view of Creation. The *hechsher* was officially returned to Pepsi yesterday.

The bodyguards enlisted to protect the rebbe — Meshi-Zehav calls them gorillas — will not cost any-

thing. "They were chosen from among people who have distinguished themselves at our demonstrations," he says.

More than 2,000 hassidim will be coming with the rebbe; 350 of them won a raffle that determined who gets to fly on Teitelbaum's airplane. The massive influx of hassidim has hiked up prices for short-term rental apartments in the capital's haredi neighborhoods to \$500 a week. The rebbe himself, during his week in Jerusalem,

will be staying with his grandson. He will also spend a week in Bnei Brak.

Meshi-Zehav says those coming from New York have gone through a brief course to familiarize them with the laws of shmita, which are not applicable outside of Israel, and which many Satmar Hassidim may be unfamiliar with. They were also told to be discreet with their video cameras, so as not to antagonize coreligionists here. "In America they have video

cameras," Meshi-Zehav says. "They are more liberal. Here video cameras are frowned upon because if you have a camera you need a television, and this is strictly forbidden."

Regarding the political situation, the hassidim here were warned not to have anything to do with the PLO. PLO chief Yasser Arafat, trying to diminish the Jewish claim to Jerusalem during his jihad speech in Johannesburg, spoke of the Natorei Karta who

"refuse to recognize the state of Israel."

Natorei Karta, Meshi-Zehav stresses, is a minuscule fringe that has been excommunicated by the Eda Haredit and the Satmar Hassidim, largely because of their highly-publicized overtures to Arafat and the PLO.

"The rebbe loves Jews, even though he may hate the state," Meshi-Zehav says. "It would be inconceivable for him to cooperate in any form with someone who is responsible for spilling Jewish blood."

An explanation sheet put out by the reception committee states that one of the major purposes of the rebbe's visit is to "give strength and encouragement to the communities who don't bow down to Baal, and who still retain their spiritual independence."

The timing of Teitelbaum's visit, Sivan 28, is no coincidence. It marks 70 years since the killing of Jacob de Haan, the fervently anti-Zionist spokesman for the Jerusalem Ashkenazi Council who in the early 1920s had contacts with Arab nationalist leaders and wrote pro-Arab memorandums to the world press and the League of Nations. The Hagana warned him to stop, and when he would not, he was assassinated.

The reception committee's information sheet reads: "De Haan was murdered because of his desire and activity to bring about peace between us and the Arabs, something that the 'Zionists' understand today, but only after they have placed the people of Israel in a maelstrom of violence for the last 70 years."

The rebbe will go to De Haan's grave on the Mount of Olives on Wednesday, but will not then proceed to the Western Wall. "Satmar Hassidim don't go to the Wall," Meshi-Zehav says, "because it was conquered by Zionists."

Casino at the Tel Aviv Hilton? Don't bet on it

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

Tourism to Eilat received a boost this week with the opening of the provisional casino at the Taba Hilton. Among the guests at a cocktail reception celebrating the opening last Wednesday was Gerald Kushler, managing director of InterCasino Management Ltd., who will oversee the construction of the larger permanent casino. Kushler, a Londoner, has not been home for 12 years. He has been too busy opening casinos around the world. The Taba Hilton is his 19th and his second in Egypt.

Kushler said that he looks forward to opening the first casino in Eilat, a feeling shared by the general managers of Eilat's hotels who turned up in full force to participate in the action at the gaming tables. Eilat Hilton manager Gabi Kadash was joined by Jody Sirota from the Ministry of Tourism, Egyptian Consul Mohammed Ibrahim and honorary British Consul Fay Morris.

Asked whether there would one day be a casino at the Tel Aviv Hilton, general manager Oded Lifshitz replied, "the question is not whether we'll have a casino in Tel Aviv, but whether we'll have one in Israel."

ATTENDING THE annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bar-Ilan University, philanthropist Erica Jesselson urged them to woo wealthy potential donors to their ranks.

Observing that this would not necessarily guarantee an increased cash flow, board member Dr. Yo-sef Burg told the story of the ty-

coon who, when approached, refused to contribute to the construction of a yeshiva, but was more than generous when asked to contribute to the construction of a hospital. When the yeshiva fundraiser asked for an explanation, the tycoon said, "I'm never going to be a scholar, but I'm bound to get sick someday."

ENCHANTED BY a huge black Napoleonic picture hat that dominated the window of a Parisian milliner, Jerusalem socialite Sarah Davidovich purchased the magnificent grosgrain-and-organza confection and brought it home. Finding that she had no real use for it, Davidovich set out to revive the headgear fashions popular during the period of the British Mandate.

Inviting some 40 friends to brunch in the courtyard of the White Gallery, Davidovich asked them to come in hats. Lawyer Tami Raviv placed an ivory straw, scallop-edged cloche over her titian curls. Ludmilla Tichon, wife of Likud MK Dan Tichon, chose a feathered helmet with upturned brim. Make-up artist Hannah Haffa created her own white lace concoction with drooping blossoms.

Nothing, however, could compete with the Parisian chapeau which most of the guests clamored to try on. No one looked better in it than Tichon, who wore it for most of the morning, tapping up compliments from friends and strangers alike. A British gentleman, charmed by her appearance, stopped by her table to say, "Congratulations on that beautiful hat. It looks like a rose garden."

THERE'S NO cutoff age for making whoopee. After kissing most of the women at his 81st birthday



Bible Lands Museum founder Eli Borowski marked his 81st birthday with a waltz. (Fishman)

bash, Eli Borowski, founder of the Bible Lands Museum, whirled his wife Batya across the puffs of their home to the strains of "Making Whoopee." Borowski plans to celebrate his 82nd birthday with an exhibition from the Jewish catcombs of Rome, currently on display at the Vatican.

AS A youngster, Vered Kollek wrote poetry. As an adult, she went into public relations and wrote press releases, but still found time to write the occasional poem. Following her marriage to an American, she moved to New York where she wrote more poetry in both Hebrew and English, more press releases and a film script *Danielle*, an espionage story revolving around the intifada, which she sent to Paramount Studios. Mildly interested, but not overly enthused, Paramount put the project on the back burner, moving it forward only after the Middle East peace process began to take shape. In the interim, Kollek adapted the script to a Hebrew novel, soon to be published by Ma'ariv.

Back on home territory to consult with her editor, Kollek disclosed that in the near future she will be commuting with increasing frequency between Israel and the UK. Husband Farrel Meisel, recently promoted to the position of senior vice president of Time Warner International Broadcasting, was also appointed managing

director of TWB's UK division. Kollek says that starting in July, she will be coming home for long weekends.

THE EXCITEMENT of journalism in the field is difficult to relinquish. Jeffrey Sudikoff, who worked here as an Associated Press reporter in 1977, is still involved with communications — but on a much wider scale. The chairman of the IDB Communications Group, Sudikoff, one of corporate America's rising stars who in the course of a decade built his country's fourth largest international communications carrier, was named by *Fortune* magazine as one of the hottest young entrepreneurs in the US.

A partner of locally based telecommunications genius David



Television talk show host Zouhair Bahloul — rumored to be entering politics.

Finland, Bahloul, the 1989 recipient of the Sieff prize for actively encouraging coexistence between Arabs and Jews, is also a radio sportscaster in Hebrew and an occasional moderator for Hebrew current affairs shows on Channel 2. Bahloul faced some good-natured ribbing this week from colleagues who wondered whether he would be reporting on Finland's soccer games. By the same token, one could ask whether former Broadcasting Authority director-general Arye Mekel, a long-time radio reporter, will be a member of the IBA team broadcasting the 1996 Olympics from Atlanta, where he is serving as Israel's consul-general.

HOME FOR a visit with family and friends is Avi Fattal, son of television producer/director Salim Fattal. The younger Fattal, who settled in California after a decade ago, made his fortune by selling an Israeli idea to the Americans: the folding accordion sunshade which fits on car windshields.

Initially unsuccessful in trying to market the cardboard device, Fattal eventually hit paydirt and made millions. Now he's also doing well with an invention of his own — a compartmentalized storage device which fits comfortably in the trunk of the car and prevents supermarket purchases from getting crushed, broken or enmeshed while being transported home.



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Henry Crown □ Hajdu & Oleartchik — concert, 2 p.m.
LIBERTY BELL GARDEN
□ Tent □ Circus Oz, 3:30 p.m.
YMCA

□ Ricochet & Vertigo — dance, 4 p.m.

Tomorrow:
LIBERTY BELL GARDEN
Tent □ Circus Oz, 8:45 p.m.
JERUSALEM THEATER
Sherover □ Bill T.Jones/Arnie Zane — dance, 9:15 p.m.
Henry Crown □ Canadian Brass Quintet, 9 p.m.
BINYENI HA'UMA
□ Stephanie Grappelli — jazz, 9:30 p.m.

GERARD BEHAR
□ Michel Boujenah — comedy, 9 p.m.
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